

HOME NEWS

Prison staff and police criticized over escape of man who killed four

Prison staff and police are criticized in a report published yesterday on the escape of William Thomas Hughes which led to the murder of four members of a family in Derbyshire in January.

Hughes escaped from a hired car taking him from Leicester prison to court in Chesterfield after attacking the two prison officers who were escorting him with a knife. He was to face charges of rape and grievous bodily harm.

He was shot dead by police officers on January 14 after killing four people: Mr Richard Moran, aged 36, his daughter Sarah, aged 10, and his parents-in-law, Mr Arthur Minton, aged 72, and his wife, Amy, aged 70.

The report says the management and staff at Leicester prison did not search properly for a missing knife, there were weaknesses in communications at different levels and insufficient information from the police.

Mr Gordon Fowler, Chief Inspector of Prisons, recommends that in future all prisoners leaving prison for any reason should be stripped and searched.

He says that the management and staff of the prison failed to coordinate or pursue with vigour the search for a missing knife which was reported missing from the prison kitchen during the morning of December 3, 1976.

"Standard searching procedures were not followed and no records were kept of any searches made by staff, a number of whom contend that they were unaware that a knife had been lost until after the events of January 12, 1977."

A knife similar to the missing one was found by police officers about four miles from where Hughes escaped and was identified by prison staff as being similar to the one reported missing from the kitchen.

Mr Fowler says there were weaknesses in communication at different levels. Such intelligence as emerged concerning the loss of the knife and its possible connection with Hughes was to some extent nullified, as it was considered the preserve of the security department of the prison and was not communicated to the staff as a whole, particularly to the escorting officers.

Mr Fowler says the information sent to the prison authorities by the police and other agencies when Hughes was in the prison was insufficient to identify him as a potential danger to the public or as a potentially dangerous psychopath.

"His demeanour and behaviour were not dissimilar

to that of a large number of prisoners and his subsequent actions were, therefore, wholly untypical of his behaviour while serving his prison sentence."

Hughes was classified as a category B prisoner, for whom the highest conditions of security are not necessary but for whom escape must be made very difficult.

The information on him was sent to the prison on a standard police form. It gives four possible reasons for suspecting a risk and contains statements to be deleted as appropriate.

In Hughes's case all entries on the form were deleted except those indicating that he was likely to try to escape, was of a violent nature and had suicidal tendencies. The form was not sent to the prison's security department, and Mr Fowler believes it was not in Hughes's record as a prisoner.

There was a delay in receiving details of the offences with which he had been charged and an up-to-date list of previous convictions. The document was received only after the events of January 12. Hughes's previous custodial records were not received from the prison department headquarters until the same time.

Mr Fowler says there should be a review of the way in which routine information is conveyed. "Standard forms themselves become routinized and tend to lose their effect where questions of security arise, and in this case the routine information contained in the police form was not supplemented in any way."

He also suggests that it should be considered whether, in view of the expense and security implications, a prisoner should be further restrained without appearing in court with the agreement of his solicitor.

In his conclusions, he says that, despite what he had reported about documentation, the primary failure in Hughes's escape concerned the searching procedures in the prison. He recommends a system whereby the issue of a knife or tool to a prisoner is made against a personal tally.

He also recommends 17 changes which should be implemented at once. They include a review of prisoners' custodial records and the prompt provision of lists of previous convictions, alleged offences and previous custodial records when a prisoner is taken into custody.

Route order forms for escorting officers must always contain information about prisoners to be escorted and the arrangements for handcuffing and no escort should leave the prison without visiting the security department.

Parliamentary Report, page 10

Why 'The Times' lacked a voice for one frustrating week

By Tim Jones
Labour Reporter

The dispute which caused non-publication of *The Times* since Thursday last week was resolved last night.

The newspaper failed to appear on the morning of Friday, March 4, after a week of interference to its production through unofficial industrial action by members of the machine assistants' chapel (union section) of the National Society of Operative Printers, Graphical and Media Personnel (Natsopa) and the publishing chapel of the Society of Graphical and Allied Trades (Sogat).

The chapels were told on the evening of March 2 that an undertaking was required that they would work normally within the terms of the industry's agreements. Such an undertaking was given by the Sogat chapel but not by the Natsopa chapel, whose members were then told that they had broken their contracts of employment by continually "disregarding the agreed procedure and taking unilateral action against the company."

At a weekend meeting be-

tween the company and national and branch officers of Natsopa variations to the working agreements were proposed and jointly agreed which would enable the root cause of the problem, which was about the cleaning of the presses, to be eliminated.

Those proposals were put to the chapel by the national and branch officers of the union on the evening of Sunday, March 6, but were not accepted by the members concerned. The agreement, which was then rejected, stated that the company would reinstate the employees who "terminated their employment" without any penalty.

According to the management, the strike was over a claim by Natsopa machine assistants for extra payments worth about £1.50 each a night for machine cleaning. The company said the claim was unjustified and would breach the pay policy.

The 120 to 140 men involved strongly deny that their action was taken for more money but because of the management's failure to arrange for cleaning machines that had been dirty for two and a half years.

The rejected agreement proposed the withdrawal of the staff related to cleaning operations from *The Times* night staff, calculated at £75 a week, and an increase in the day staff to absorb all the cleaning duties.

That would leave only the normal "wipe-up" at the end of a production run and routine work during the run to *The Times* night staff.

Under the agreement the ultimate plan would be the establishment of a separate day chapel, operating seven days a week.

The executive council of the union met on Monday, March 7, and issued an instruction to all members of *The Times* machine chapel to report for duty on the basis of the proposals. That instruction was ignored, and on Tuesday, March 8, Mr. J. Hussey, managing director and chief executive of Times Newspapers Ltd, wrote to the general secretaries of other print unions.

His letter said the company was awaiting further information from Natsopa on whether the men would return to work or whether, alternatively, the union could supply the news-

paper with replacement staff, on a casual basis, so that publication could be resumed.

The same day the union's executive expelled Mr. W. Barnes, father (chairman) of the chapel, his deputy and two members of the chapel committee.

On Wednesday, March 9, leaders of Natsopa expelled its members in the night machine room of *The Times* after the newspaper failed to appear for the sixth consecutive night. Telegrams were sent to the members involved informing them that their membership was null and void.

Mr Owen O'Brien, the union's general secretary, was reported as saying: "We will have a confrontation with people who intend, if they get their way, to undermine the authority of this union. We will meet that challenge to the union and its executive."

On Wednesday night the men refused to be addressed by the union's assistant secretaries, Mr Teddy O'Brien and Mr Arthur Davis. The men said they would not return to work until the four officials had been reinstated.

Yesterday Mr John Mitchell,

secretary of the union's London machine branch, issued a statement saying that the union was "determined to destroy the fabric of the union."

During the day Mr O'Brien had said there was no hope of the newspaper being printed that night and made statements indicating that he considered the dispute to have developed primarily into an issue of whether or not the union's constitution would be upheld by the membership.

During the dispute, which had placed the jobs of 2,000 people and the future survival of the newspaper in jeopardy, Lord Thomson of Fleet, speaking in Canada, pointed out that his family's commitment to ensure the continued publication of the newspaper was moral rather than legal.

Lord Thomson has made it clear on many occasions that he is willing to continue to subsidize the newspaper provided that he has the loyal support of the staff.

Since taking over *The Times* in 1967, the net loss to his family, after all tax losses, has been in the region of £10m and close to £20m gross.



Miss Jessie Matthews, the actress, who is 70 today, pruning roses in her garden at Hatch End, Harrow, London, yesterday.

No dismissal in spite of 'malpractice'

Malpractice and mistakes greatly increased Lambeth Borough Council's maintenance costs, according to a report by senior councillors. But the council is not to take criminal proceedings, and although some staff have been disciplined no one is to be dismissed.

The report, by a policy sub-committee, is the outcome of an investigation into average housing maintenance costs of £195 a house a year. Nearly £500,000 has been saved in the present financial year, and the maintenance estimates for next year have been cut by £1m.

But the report states that Lambeth "may well still have one of the highest housing repairs budgets in London."

Alderman David Stimpson, who chaired the subcommittee, said yesterday: "Cases of malpractice have come to light on the part of certain roofing contractors, and these firms have been removed from our approved list. We are also refusing to pay substantial amounts of outstanding claims from them."

"I am sorry to say the audit investigation shows that some of our own employees have been overbooking time, and disciplinary action has been taken. However, after considering all the facts in each case, including the past service of the employees concerned, we have decided not to sack anyone."

"We have concluded on the advice of our chief legal and financial officers that no criminal proceedings should be brought by the council at this stage."

The investigation began in June, 1975.

Bombers shoot dead boy who shouted a warning

A Belfast youth died in hospital shortly after being shot by men planting a bomb in a car accessories shop in the city centre yesterday.

It is understood that Norman Sharkey, aged 17, a store assistant, who lived in the Ormeau Road district, was shot after shouting a warning to workmates.

Another worker at the shop said the killers entered by a side street. The main door had a security check on it.

The bomb exploded 10 minutes after being planted, by which time the building had been cleared. It caused a serious fire in the shop, which is owned by Mr Paddy Hopkirk, the retired rally driver.

Torture protest: The Northern Ireland Police Authority yesterday protested to Sir Michael Swann, chairman of the BBC, about a *Tonight* programme about allegations of torture during police interrogation.

In a letter, the authority expressed disquiet about the impression created by a statement that the Royal Ulster Constabulary had been given an opportunity to appear on the programme to rebut the allegations.

"The BBC had been told quite categorically in advance of the programme that since complaints alleging ill treatment of the persons concerned were under investigation it was impossible for the chief constable to comment," the letter said.

"None the less the impression was created in the minds of viewers that there was a strong case to answer and that by not appearing the RUC had to a degree admitted the truth of the allegations."

Allegations denied: Mr Kenneth Oxford, Chief Constable of Merseyside, yesterday denied allegations by Mr Gerard Fitt, MP for Belfast, West, that Liverpool police had abused their powers under the Prevention of Terrorism Act. But if Mr Fitt had any evidence of impropriety it would be investigated.

Two women freed in trial over Herrema kidnapping

Two of five people charged in connection with the 1975 kidnapping in the Irish Republic of Dr. Herrema, the Dutch industrialist, and the cases against them withdrawn at the Special Criminal Court in Dublin yesterday. Mrs Catherine Hall and Mrs Bridget Bailey were allowed to leave the dock.

Four people have already been sentenced for their part in Dr Herrema's kidnapping.

Thomas Anthony Dunn, of Roscommon, Co. Leit., denied that he had been part of an attempt to obstruct the course of justice by demanding the release of three prisoners. Mr Hall and Mr Bailey will be sentenced at the end of Mr Dunn's trial.

Four people have already been sentenced for their part in Dr Herrema's kidnapping.

Printers go back to work

Continued from page 1

the pay code, to which Natsopa is a party.

The men returned to work after being expelled from their union in an unprecedented disciplinary action that would have meant they could not work in Fleet Street again. At a meeting in Congress House, the TUC headquarters, last night, the men decided to go back on the basis of the draft weekend agreement which puts their grievance into the industry's formal procedure.

Mr Owen O'Brien, general secretary of Natsopa, said: "These men have now accepted their responsibilities to the executive council and I am satisfied that they have seen the error of their ways. The men have now all gone back to work and *The Times* will be on the streets tomorrow."

The dispute over machine cleaning will now go into the union's "normal constitutional process" and Natsopa officials will meet the machine assistants on Monday to discuss their demands.

No prosecution for 1944 killing

A man who confessed recently that in 1944 he killed a pedestrian while driving a stolen van is not to be prosecuted. The Director of Public Prosecutions has said it would not be in the public interest.

The man who made the confession, Mr Herbert Stratton, York, said yesterday: "I am greatly relieved. It has been on my conscience all these years."

Wrong man was jailed, court told

Mr Stanley Sirkin, a mini-cab driver, thought he would make himself £500. He went to court pretending to be Mr William Ross, a dealer in pornography, and admitted selling obscene material. But instead of being fined as he expected he was jailed for six months, he told a jury at the Central Criminal Court, London, yesterday.

Mr Sirkin was giving evidence against six detectives, formerly with the obscene publications squad at Scotland Yard, who are accused of accepting bribes from pornographic traders as an inducement or reward for showing favour.

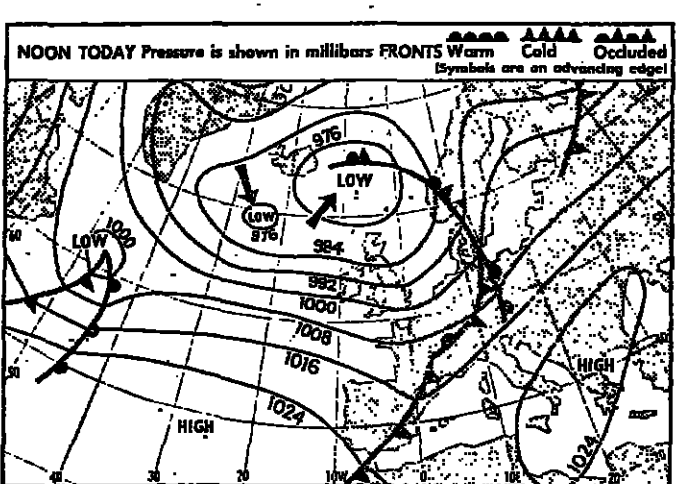
He alleged that his courtroom pretence was carried out with the full knowledge of a detective from the squad who was in charge of the case, but he could not remember his name.

He also alleged that when an appeal was lodged the same detective advised him not to appear and told him he would be automatically ordered to serve the sentence, but that the police would not look for him.

Mr Sirkin said the prosecution came after a police raid on a pornographic bookshop in Soho in 1967, which he had nothing to do with, being a mini-cab driver at the time. A friend, William Hicks, was summoned to appear before the magistrates and offered. Mr Sirkin £500 if he would appear for him and plead guilty to selling obscene material. He agreed.

Mr Sirkin said that about a year later he surrendered himself at Scotland Yard, because he wanted to get the matter off his chest. He had served the six-month sentence and was paid £500 by Mr Hicks, who had since died.

Weather forecast and recordings



NOON TODAY Pressure is shown in millibars FRONTS Warm Cold Occluded (Symbol is an advancing edge)

Sun rises: 6.24 am Sun sets: 5.58 pm
Moon rises: 12.18 am Moon sets: 9.28 am
Last quarter: Tomorrow
Lighting up: 6.28 pm to 5.52 am
High water: London Bridge, 5.20 am, 7.2m (23.5ft); 5.50 pm, 5.0m (16.4ft)
Avalonmouth, 10.52 am, 12.1m (39.7ft); 11.14 pm, 11.5m (37.8ft)
Dover, 2.29 am, 6.6m (21.6ft); 2.38 pm, 6.2m (20.3ft)
Nykær, 9.22 am, 6.9m (22.6ft); 10.16 pm, 6.9m (22.6ft)
Liverpool, 2.44 am, 8.9m (29.2ft); 3.6 pm, 8.7m (28.6ft)

heavy and prolonged at times; wind S, strong to gale; max temp 7°C (45°F)
Outlook for tomorrow and Sunday: Changeable, rain at times, snow over N hills, bright intervals; temp near normal.

Se passages: North Sea, Strait of Dover, English Channel (E): Wind SW strong to gale becoming fresh; sea very rough becoming moderate.

Se passages: Channel, Irish Sea: Wind SW gale or severe gale decreasing strong; sea very rough becoming strong.

Yesterday
London: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 12°C (54°F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 7°C (45°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 62 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm, 1.8hr. Bar, mean sea level, 6 pm, 1,003.5 millibars, falling. 1,000 millibars = 29.32in.

March 3
London: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 15°C (59°F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 11°C (52°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 43 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm, 1.018.3 millibars, falling.

March 4
London: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 14°C (57°F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 11°C (52°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 66 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm, 1.025.7 millibars, rising.

March 5
London: Temp: max 6 am to 6 pm, 14°C (57°F); min 6 pm to 6 am, 7°C (45°F). Humidity, 6 pm, 72 per cent. Rain, 24hr to 6 pm, 1.025.7 millibars, rising.

Overseas selling prices
Austrian, 10.50; Belgium, 10.50; Canada, 10.50; Denmark, 10.50; France, 10.50; Germany, 10.50; Greece, 10.50; Hong Kong, 10.50; India, 10.50; Italy, 10.50; Japan, 10.50; Korea, 10.50; Luxembourg, 10.50; Malaysia, 10.50; Mexico, 10.50; Netherlands, 10.50; New Zealand, 10.50; Norway, 10.50; Portugal, 10.50; Singapore, 10.50; South Africa, 10.50; Spain, 10.50; Sweden, 10.50; Switzerland, 10.50; Taiwan, 10.50; Thailand, 10.50; Turkey, 10.50; U.K., 10.50; U.S.A., 10.50; West Germany, 10.50; Yugoslavia, 10.50.

Mystery of fire in which seven women died

From Our Correspondent
Manchester

A coroner's jury was told yesterday that two mysteries remain after the deaths of seven women who were trapped by fire in a building in the centre of Manchester on January 20. The first was what caused the fire, which started in the basement and developed over a period of more than three hours. Mr Donald Summerfield, the Manchester coroner, said the cause might have been faulty electrical wiring in the basement, which housed a fish-and-chip shop and a sandwich bar. But there had been no conclusive evidence.

The second mystery was why the women, working in a room on the third storey, were unable to reach a fire escape left away. One theory was that they had not realized the danger until too late, and by then the corridor outside was so hot and full of fumes that they decided to stay in their room.

One of the women tried to get help when an emergency telephone call at 6.48 pm. The caller spoke to an operator at the

exchange and then to a woman in the fire brigade control room. She was very distressed there was screaming and banging in the background, and they were unable to get any clear information from her. There was a scream and then the line went dead.

The dead women, all of whom were married and had children, were Mrs Lena Edna Baird, aged 29, of Shayfield Road, Wythenshawe; Mrs Anne Prudence Matthews, aged 25, of Seymour Road, Crumpton; Mrs Cynthia Ethel Bayhurst, aged 27, of Ridge Road, Marple; Mrs Susan Kathleen Davies, aged 25, of Brook Drive, Astley; Mrs Janet Knowles, aged 24, of Milton Close, Marple; Mrs Lily Patricia Myers, aged 37, of Benchill Court Road, Wythenshawe; and Mrs Hylda King, aged 28, of Oakdale Road, Sale.

All had inhaled lethal doses of carbon monoxide but none had been badly burnt.

Verdicts of accidental death were returned in each case and the jury commended the bravery of police and fire officers who tried to rescue the women.



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£27,000 paid for silver George III wine cistern

A George III silver wine cistern by Daniel Smith and Robert Sharp exceeded expectations by selling to London dealer for £27,000 estimate £20,000 to £22,000 at Sotheby's yesterday.

The oval cistern, weighing about 48 ozs, bears the arms of Primrose, marquis of Grey, for the third Earl of Rosebery.

The sale of English and foreign silver realised a total of £160,521, with 2.7 per cent unsold.

A large silver-plated breakfast service by Paul Storr was sold for £17,500. Each piece bears the arms, crest and monograms of the earls of Pembroke and Montgomery.

A sale of Old Master drawings fetched a total of £41,659. The highest price of £2,000 was paid for a pen and brown ink and wash drawing entitled "Standing Figure of an Old Man" by Giovanni Battista Tiepolo.

A sale of photographs of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries at Christie's South Kensington realised £17,170, with 4 per cent unsold.

In a sale of Continental ceramics and European glass at Sotheby's Belgrave £11,500 was paid for a George Woodall cameo-glass plaque of Aphrodite lying in the waves, about 1885.

TUC women seek stronger Equal Pay Act

Amendments to the Equal Pay Act to make it more effective were demanded in a motion passed by the TUC women's conference yesterday.

Mrs Pat Turner, of the General and Municipal Workers' Union, said weaknesses in legislation encouraged employers to resist moves towards equal pay.

Delegates called for women to be made aware of their rights under recent legislation; for union meetings to be held at times to suit working mothers; and for equal opportunity committees at places of employment.

Another motion condemned the withdrawal of preschool day care facilities.

Jobless man's £200-a-week pension fraud

Geoffrey Gibbons, unemployed, who said he had defrauded the social security department out of £200 a week for two years, was said by Justice Brinkov at the Central Criminal Court yesterday to have been "too busy to get a job". He was jailed for two years.

Mr Gibbons, aged 37, of Blackheath Hall, Bennetts Park Road, Blackheath, London, pleaded guilty to 13 counts of dishonestly obtaining money and of equal opportunity committees at places of employment.

The police were said to have found six stolen pension books in his car.

SNP offers own Bill to set up an assembly

The Scottish National Party yesterday put forward a Bill to set up a Scottish assembly in September. The party said the Bill would break the impasse over the Government's own devolution Bill.

The nationalists propose a 150-seat assembly which would be elected on September 15. Members would take their seats 11 days later. The Bill contains only five clauses, compared with 115 in the Government's.

The assembly would decide on its own powers and constitution, including tax-raising and financial powers. Its decisions would then be put before Scottish voters in a referendum and would have to be approved by a single vote in both Lords and Commons at Westminster.

Mr George Reid, MP for Stirlingshire, East, and Clackmannan, and Mr Gordon Wilson, MP for Dundee, East, the nationalists' spokesman on devolution, said in a statement: "This Bill seeks to develop, in relation to Scotland, workable provisions for a Scottish assembly, building from the clauses of the Scotland and Wales Bill passed so far."

Parliament having rejected the Government's timetable motion, there can be no prospect of any Bill so complex and detailed as the Scotland and Wales Bill being enacted in this session. What is therefore necessary is a short and simple measure which will establish a Scottish assembly."

WEATHER REPORTS YESTERDAY

t, fair; r, rain; s, sun; sn, snow.

Amphibian, 10.50; Belgium, 10.50; Canada, 10.50; Denmark, 10.50; France, 10.50; Germany, 10.50; Greece, 10.50; Hong Kong, 10.50; India, 10.50; Italy, 10.50; Japan, 10.50; Korea, 10.50; Luxembourg, 10.50; Malaysia, 10.50; Mexico, 10.50; Netherlands, 10.50; New Zealand, 10.50; Norway, 10.50; Portugal, 10.50; Singapore, 10.50; South Africa, 10.50; Spain, 10.50; Sweden, 10.50; Switzerland, 10.50; Taiwan, 10.50; Thailand, 10.50; Turkey, 10.50; U.K., 10.50; U.S.A., 10.50; West Germany, 10.50; Yugoslavia, 10.50.

In brief

No more 'ladies only' carriages

British Rail is to phase out its remaining "ladies only" compartments, starting immediately. About a hundred are left, all on the Liverpool Street division of the Eastern region serving Essex.

Women only compartments were introduced almost a century ago because of attacks on women. The "ladies only" labels will be removed from carriage windows when trains enter depots.

Vehicle removal charges to rise

Increases in charges for removing illegally parked, broken down or abandoned vehicles are set out in regulations laid before Parliament yesterday.

The charge for removal from a motorway goes up from £18 to £22, for removal from roads in London from £15 to £20 and from roads elsewhere from £14 to £18. Excess charges and fixed penalties will still be separate payments.

TGWU membership

Mr Jack Jones, secretary of the Transport and General Workers' Union, announced yesterday that membership of the union has reached 1,929,834, an increase in the past 12 months of 73,669.

Rabies port order

All animals that can carry rabies are to be barred from entering Britain at Dover (West Dock), Folkestone, London (Dover Dock), Tilbury, Newhaven, and Harwich (Parkenton Quay).

Exam fee plan off

HOME NEWS

LSE head says level of increased fees and method of announcing them 'border on the irresponsible'

By Robert Parker
Professor Ralf Dahrendorf, Director of the London School of Economics, which, like many other colleges, has been occupied recently by students protesting at proposed tuition fee increases and the structure of the grant system, says today that the increases, their level, and the method of their announcement "border on the irresponsible".

In an article in *The Times Higher Education Supplement* Professor Dahrendorf makes a comparison between the nature of student unrest in the late 1960s and the present widespread protests about grants and fees. He finds important differences.

Professor Dahrendorf writes that, even apart from the question of differentials, the increased tuition fees "change the system of university finance by stealth, and introduce an anti-postgraduate and anti-overseas policy through the back door, placing additional burdens on local authorities in the process. It takes either great cynicism or great ignorance to introduce such a system, and the sooner it is thoroughly revised the better."

He says it is not difficult to predict what would happen in the livelier universities of the country during the carnival season of a student strike. But he adds that the nature of recent protests, which he calls "the new restlessness", was very different

from the student activities of the late 1960s.

"The surprising fact is what the new restlessness is about, for its objectives are totally different from those of the late 1960s, and they mirror a development in the educational scene which is dramatic and disturbing."

"Not one British working-class child is deprived of tertiary education by the new system of fees, although some may find postgraduate education, or midway changes of subject, a little more difficult now. I do not say this to offer excuses for indefensible fees, I say it to bring out the rationale, if any, of a new wave of student unrest."

The disturbances in the late 1960s were active, self-confident and rising on the crest of a wave, he maintains. The recent troubles involved a less confident attempt to maintain the status quo.

The recent protests were against the system which feeds the latest fear of many in higher education that things will get worse and worse and that this deterioration has to be stopped.

"The motive of unrest is fear, fear of an uncertain future. Such fear is shared by lecturers and professors, university administrators and vice-chancellors. Not surprisingly, therefore, many of them have found it useful to join their restless students in their demands."

But few would deny that

students in the late 1960s felt that the future was theirs. Education, particularly tertiary education, had gone through a phase of unprecedented expansion.

"Those involved in it saw great opportunities, both in the narrow sense of job opportunities and in the wider sense of influencing society at large."

"But this phase was almost unbelievably short-lived. Strange as this may seem, the rising class of the late 1960s has become the declining class in the late 1970s. The successors of those who thought 10 years ago that the future was theirs are now worried about their future, defensive, demanding protection rather than asserting confidence."

Professor Dahrendorf says tertiary education probably ranks with aid to developing countries as one of the most unpopular issues in the political debate. "In a very real sense, tertiary education has become a declining industry (if that is the word for places of the leisurely pursuit of learning)."

"Perhaps the present crisis of education will teach us a useful lesson about the limits of the much exaggerated link between educational and the occupational systems, and thus give education its proper place."

"Altogether, students today reflect the plight of many groups in our society, clinging to what they have got rather than groping for something



A part of Palma Vecchio's "A blond woman", specially cleaned to be one of 22 Venetian paintings the National Gallery is lending to the Wallraf-Richartz-Museum, Cologne.

BMA call for 'hotel' charges in hospitals

By a Staff Reporter

A new financial structure for the National Health Service should include "hotel" charges for a stay in hospital, increased prescription charges and an insurance-based health service fund, the British Medical Association has recommended.

At a special meeting to complete its evidence to the Royal Commission on the National Health Service the BMA decided that payment at the time of use, with appropriate exemptions, was necessary to raise extra finance for the health service.

It suggested the creation of the new fund into which the Government would pay to cover the health care of disadvantaged groups such as the old, children, long-stay patients and others. The working population would pay a new flat-rate insurance contribution, plus "hotel" charges to help to cover the cost of food, light and heat while they were in hospital.

The meeting agreed that the National Health Service needed an extra £2,000m and urged the royal commission to investigate methods of financing in European health-care systems, where patients paid fees to doctors and reclaimed them later from the social security system, when eligible.

The meeting did not define the scale of charges to be imposed, but in the past BMA working parties have suggested that patients might pay £2 a day while in hospital and £1 a time for prescriptions.

The central argument of the BMA submission will be that Exchequer-based finance of the health service has failed.

Evidence on health service manpower will include a paper prepared by leaders of the 19,000 junior hospital doctors. It calls for an immediate cut of 800 to 2,800 in the intake of medical schools. The meeting was told that medical schools were producing too many doctors.

The Faculty of Community Medicine, in its submission to the royal commission, suggested that health education must extend beyond the "captive groups" of schoolchildren and expectant mothers to older adult groups, particularly those whose examples could strongly influence the young.

The faculty, which was formed in 1972 by the three Royal Colleges of Physicians, said there should be two principal themes in health education: the inculcation of healthy patterns of behaviour and appropriate use of the health services.

Crop prices 'high'

Shortage of home-grown vegetables will keep prices high until June, when the new season's crops come in, the National Federation of Fruit and Potato Traders predicted yesterday.

Students end sit-in

Hull University students, who had occupied the administration wing since Monday as a protest against higher tuition fees, left when a bus arrived with a High Court injunction yesterday.

Libel damages of 1p for retired specialist

Dr Maurice Bloom, aged 74, a retired specialist in marital difficulties, was awarded a half-penny libel damages in the High Court yesterday over a newspaper report which he maintained accused him of being incompetent and irresponsible in signing an abortion certificate.

Because of the jury's "derisory" award, Dr Bloom, who was born in South Africa, was ordered to pay a large part of the estimated £20,000 costs of his nine-day action against the *News of the World*, Mr Peter Stephens, the newspaper's editor in 1974, and Mr Litchfield and Susan Kentish, both journalists. His share of the costs is estimated at about £15,000.

Dr Bloom had contended that the article, "My Phantom Baby" published in the *News of the World* in March, 1974, accused him of being irresponsible and incompetent in signing a certificate for a therapeutic abortion.

The defendants said the article, which described how Mr Litchfield and Mrs Kentish, posing as a married couple, had been referred to Dr Bloom

for a possible abortion, was true and fair comment on a matter of public interest.

Mr Andrew Bateson, QC, for the defendants, submitted to Mr Justice Melford Stevenson that in view of the jury's award Dr Bloom should bear the whole of the costs. The judge directed that Dr Bloom should pay all the trial costs and all costs after January last year, when the doctor rejected a £5 settlement offer. Each side would have to pay its own costs before that date.

Dr Bloom said he and his legal advisers were considering a possible appeal.

The judge, in his summing-up, said the jury might think that the Abortion Act placed a heavy duty upon a doctor to make the greatest care before consenting to sign a certificate, the effect of which would be to destroy a potential human life.

"You have got to consider and ask yourselves whether the opinion Dr Bloom formed and expressed was 'reckless, casual or incompetent' or was it a conclusion correctly formed on adequate material? You have also got to decide whether the comments made about the interview were fair."

EEC milk move 'threat to biscuit names'

By Hugh Clayton
Biscuit makers said yesterday that names such as cream crackers and custard creams might disappear because of efforts by the EEC to move its milk "mountain". The commission wants to limit the use of such words as cream, butter and milk in products that include other fats. British product names up to a century old would be outlawed.

The commission wants to make food processors use milk fat in products in which mixtures of vegetable fats are given a texture reminiscent of that of cream.

Lord Monistone, director of the alliance, which represents most large makers of cake and biscuits, said yesterday: "It is quite wrong to try to shift the Commission's milk powder and butter 'mountains'."

Churchgoer rule dropped for adoptions

Couples who want to adopt or foster children through the Church of England Children's Society no longer need to be churchgoers. The change in policy was announced in a report yesterday but committed atheists will still be ruled out.

Six years ago the society, which places 400 children a year, dropped its insistence on a Church of England upbringing for the children and said parents need only be members of a Christian denomination.

The new report, from a working party chaired by the Bishop of Willesden, the Right Rev G. H. Thompson, says many churchgoers have been waiting for foster-homes and the imposition of religious requirements added to the difficulty. In future adopting parents will have to be committed to a Christian way of life.

Science report

Biology: Milestone in genetics

New techniques for reading the genetic code have been developed by Dr P. D. Sanger and his associates at the Medical Research Council's laboratories in Cambridge, have led to a milestone in modern biology. The Cambridge team has just achieved the first complete analysis of the entire DNA genetic blueprint of an organism.

The organism in question is a virus known as phi X174, and the analysis of its complete genetic masterplan has shown that even the building of a simple virus can be a complicated matter.

The genetic instructions for making phi X174, like the genetic instructions for making a living thing, are encoded in a chemistry of DNA (deoxyribonucleic acid). DNA consists quite simply of a long string of four kinds of chemical subunit (nucleotides). From that four-letter alphabet, the instructions for building anything from a virus to an elephant can be spelt out.

Until the development of new techniques for analyzing the sequence of subunits in the string, it could take about a year to "read" 100 nucleotides. Now 100 nucleotides can be sequenced in a few days.

Because viruses are extremely simple, comprising only a strand of DNA wrapped in a protein coat, it is possible to make a direct comparison of the genetic blueprint with its final product. One curious feature of phi X174 turned out to be that it made more proteins than it ought to have been able to code within its entire DNA strand.

Now that they have the complete sequence of the nucleotide in the strand, the Cambridge biologists have been able to solve

the paradox. The DNA alphabet is read in three-letter "words" of which specifies one amino acid in the amino acid chain of which all proteins are made. So each different sequence of nucleotide triplets produces a different sequence of amino acids and thus a different protein.

It turns out that the DNA of phi X174 contains overlapping instructions. Instead of having genes in which the sequence coding one protein ends where the next one begins, it is organized so that more than one protein can be read from overlapping stretches of DNA, by shifting the reading frame.

Usually, such "frame shifts" generate biological nonsense. The surprising evolutionary feat of phi X174 has been to produce DNA sequences which make sense in more than one frame. So far, no other instance of overlapping genetic information has been found, but the new sequencing techniques may well reveal more as research on DNA continues.

The research has also made it possible to identify the "start" and "stop" signals for reading the genetic sequence. These are the simplest and most fundamental of the controls that exist in living things to regulate the translation of the genetic code. Further research will be aimed at understanding some of the much more complicated regulatory chemistry that goes into the making of complex animals.

By Nature-Times News Service
Source: *Nature*, Feb 24 (255, 687, 1977)
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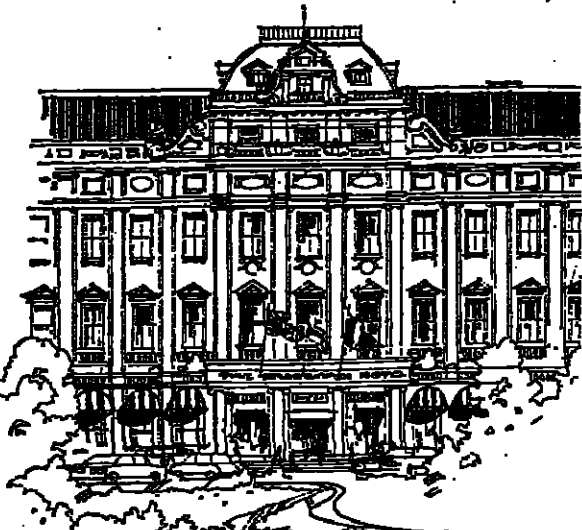
N°63 in a series

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Well situated for many of the smart, interesting and green parts of the Capital City, the London Tara will give you a stay of informal convenience. The London Tara is in Wrights Lane, Kensington W8. Reservations on 01-937 7211.

Bloomsbury Centre. A superbly appointed hotel, conveniently situated close to the West End, the Bloomsbury Centre Hotel offers you high standards at sensible

cost. The 250 bedrooms all have bath and shower, central heating, radio and TV. As for restaurants, there is the choice of the 'Happy Casserole' or the 'Coffee Shop'; the character is different but both have delicious fare. The University and Coram bars also offer a peaceful air with your beer or cocktails.

If you'd like that welcomed feeling, you'll enjoy it here. The Bloomsbury Centre Hotel is in Coram Street, W.C.1. Reservations on 01-837 1200.

Skyline Hotel. A truly de luxe hotel at Heathrow that offers every modern comfort and convenience; ideal whether you're dispelling jet lag or just staying out of town. The hotel is built round the Patio Caribe which has exotic tropical plants and a shaped swimming pool with bar. The 360 spacious rooms are extremely luxurious; each is period designed, has colour TV, deep pile carpets and extra long beds. The Skyline Chefs are famous for their exciting, imaginative food which you eat in the charming Colony Room. (Or you may prefer an evening in Diamond Lil's Western Saloon).

Everything, but everything, has been arranged to make your visit to the Skyline entertaining and memorable. The Skyline is in the Bath Road, Hayes, Middlesex. Reservations on 01-759 2535.

The Churchill. Only the finest is good enough at The Churchill, located in Portman Square a few paces from Oxford Street. The ambience is calm and unhurried; the decor sumptuously elegant; the 500 rooms spacious and luxurious. The feeling of having a 'London home' is evident in both the atmosphere and helpful attitude of the staff. As for food, you'll find much to tempt you in the 'Number Ten' restaurant; it offers a full repertoire of Continental haute cuisine in Regency surroundings.

The unique Churchill is a firm international favourite with those who want the best. The Churchill, Portman Square, London W.1. Reservations on 01-486 5800.

Flemings Hotel. In the heart of Mayfair, Flemings Hotel has a special reputation for offering good value. Its 108 rooms are very well furnished and the aura of 'easy come and go' makes the hotel extremely popular with both tourists and businessmen. There's that true sense of being looked after by the staff, and the food is first class.

It's easy to get tickets for shows and tours from the desk—but at times you may simply want to sit back in the commodious lounge. Flemings Hotel is at 7-12 Half Moon Street, W.1. Reservations on 01-499 2964.

Basil Street Hotel. The 'Basil', as it is familiarly known by its many regulars, must be one of the most perfectly situated, and

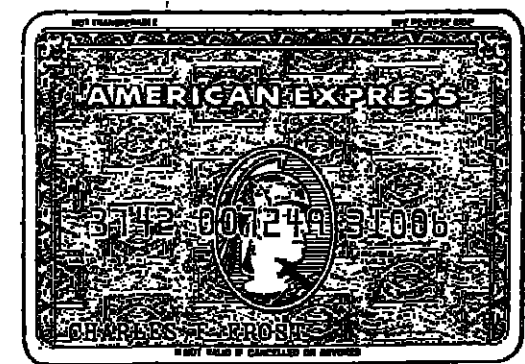


perfectly English, hotels in London. Harrods and many other top London stores are just round the corner from this gracious 'Country House' with 113 beautifully appointed bedrooms. The Green Dining Room is reputed to be one of the loveliest to look-at in London, with musical soirees on Sunday nights. There's also a wine bar for lighter meals and music.

As soon as you enter the 'Basil', there's an aura of quiet, elegant charm and the Management and Staff take great care over the comfort and well-being of their guests. The Basil Street Hotel, Knightsbridge, SW3. Reservations on 01-730 3411.

Royal Crescent Hotel. Brighton is a charming place to visit, whether for a weekend or longer. And the Regency-styled Royal Crescent Hotel is the perfect place to stay. Situated in Marine Parade, there is a delightful view of the sea from some of the 66 rooms. Everything has been done to ensure your comfort, from the complete central heating to the truly excellent and varied cuisine, which includes a moderately-priced Table d'Hôte. It's hardly surprising that the hotel is so well recommended by the major Guides; the sophisticated comfort is supported by superlative service.

The Royal Crescent Hotel, 100 Marine Parade, Brighton, Sussex. Reservations on Brighton 66311.



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HOME NEWS

Civil servants rehearse arguments against former Prime Ministers' call to break up the Treasury

By Peter Hennessy

Suggestions from two former Prime Ministers that the Treasury should be broken up have reopened and sharpened a classic, internal debate in Whitehall about the power, size and shape of the central departments of state.

The advocacy of Mr Edward Heath and Sir Harold Wilson before the Commons Select Committee on Expenditure has stimulated counter-arguments within the government machine in support of the status quo, although the present Prime Minister has not yet asked for contingency plans to be drawn up for a fundamental reorganization.

Should Mr Callaghan do so, he can expect a long list of practical objections to be set alongside the expected gains in removing the Treasury's public expenditure divisions from Great George Street to form, with the manpower divisions of the Civil Service Department, a new ministry of Budget and manpower as recommended by his two predecessors.

The suggested reform would end one anomaly, by reuniting spending decisions with their manpower component (an important element in the cost of central government), only at the expense of creating a host of new illogicalities, the argument runs. Managing the public sector borrowing requirement, for example, would be hindered by splitting its two determinants, taxation and expenditure.

Separating the decision on the total size of public expenditure, a crucial element in the Government's overall economic judgement from the Treasury's forecasting apparatus would

lead to damaging incoherence in Whitehall policy-making. The opponents of change rest their case on the argument that central economic management is a "seamless robe".

The possible fate of the Treasury's domestic economy sector is used as an illustration of the difficulties involved. Would its responsibility for pricing policy in the nationalized industries stay in the Treasury rump, or would it join public sector investment in the new Budget ministry?

Decision-taking on a host of other issues, the Treasury believes, would be wastefully divided by reorganization, requiring separate decisions on the taxation and expenditure components of transport, housing, agriculture and food policy, the tax and benefits sides of poverty relief and the relationship between tax, spending and monetary policy in providing incentives for industry.

Supporters of Treasury unity would maintain that its internal reorganization in 1975 enhanced the coherence of decision-making in all those areas and that dismemberment would more than undo the gains. The feeling in Great George Street is that the almost unbroken succession of economic crises in 1976 could not have been handled without the reforms of the previous year, and that life would have been impossible had there been a built-in fissure between the Treasury as a financial ministry and as a separate department.

Although it is seen as a more rational split than the deliberate overlaps with the Treasury left by the creation of the Department of Economic Affairs in 1964, an experiment dis-

continued five years later, a division of responsibility between Finance and Budget, critics of Mr Heath and Sir Harold contend, would impose a high cost in disrupting the machinery of Government for several years.

The attack on its power did not take Great George Street entirely by surprise. Before the two former Prime Ministers gave their views on the Treasury, Sir John Hunt, Secretary of the Cabinet, fulfilling the civil servant's role of presenting the options, told the select committee how dismemberment could take place as one of several possibilities open to the Prime Minister.

The Treasury knew Sir John's intentions in advance. Indeed, every Monday (the day the select committee meets) Whitehall's big three, Sir John, Sir Douglas Allen from the Civil Service Department and Sir Douglas Wip from the Treasury, have luncheon together in the Cabinet Office mess.

Should Mr Callaghan instruct the Treasury to renege on its twin, his wishes would be swiftly carried out and new interdepartmental machinery set up overnight to minimize the severance. Not for nothing were old Treasury hands recalling last week the words of Sir Laurence (now Lord) Helsby, then Head of the Home Civil Service, on the eve of the 1964 general election.

With Labour's plans for a Department of Economic Affairs in mind, he told his Treasury knights: "Gentlemen, from tomorrow we may be required to stand on our heads. If we are, we will stand on them efficiently."

Man in the news: Mr Alan Lord

Abrasive activist enters industry

By Peter Hennessy

Mr Alan Lord, aged 47, the "flier" in the galaxy of Treasury permanent secretaries, who surprised Whitehall on Wednesday with the news of his departure to join Dunlop, has always shown a practical bent.

As a teenager going up to Cambridge from Rochdale, just after the war, he decided he was probably not up to the examination for the old administrative class of the Civil Service but that a career in the Colonial Service might be within his grasp. A knowledge of tribalism would be an asset to a future district commissioner and so it was on the Anthropology Tripos that he cut his intellectual teeth.

"But it was the Board of Inland Revenue not the bush that acquired his services in 1950. He regards the Inland Revenue as the best kind of training a young civil servant can get, as does Sir Harold Wilson, who singled out Mr Lord's progress for praise before the Commons Select Committee on Expenditure last week.

It was as an assistant secretary that Mr Lord, then aged 35, acquired the star marking that singled him out as a future permanent secretary. In 1964 he sat two rooms away from Professor Nicholas (now Lord) Kaldor in Somerset House and turned the celebration of Labour's tax expert into the usable form of a capital gains tax in five months between Labour's election victory and Mr Callaghan's first Budget. He says it was the most demanding job he had done and it put him in hospital for a time.



Mr Alan Lord: "Going to the coalface."

It was even more punishing than the battle royal in the Department of Industry in 1974 in which he and others struggled for the soul of Labour's industrial policy in the era of Mr Wedgwood Benn and compulsory planning agreements. The result was stand-off, with the Industry Bill being taken away from both officials and ministers in Victoria House and put in the Cabinet Office by the Prime Minister.

Unusually young at 46 for a member of the Treasury's top team, in October, 1975, he was brought in to run its new domestic economy sector, the cutting edge of Mr Healey's attempt to fill the hole left

by the demise of the Department of Economic Affairs by bringing the industrial dimension more directly into high economic policy-making.

His chairmanship of the Industrial Strategy Group, a monthly meeting of officials from Whitehall economic departments, the National Economic Development Office, the nationalized industries, the TUC and CBI, gave him a crucial role in the Government's efforts to turn round decades of decline in Britain's manufacturing industry, and he was widely regarded as the best of the new breed of activist civil servant.

By making abrasiveness a virtue, he won his share of detractors. Full of Northern earthiness, he liked to chat about shop stewards being the kind of lads with whom he went to Rugby League matches back in his Rochdale days, and put in joining Dunlop as "working at the coalface".

If the industrial strategy does well, Alan Lord will get much of the credit. His contribution was to urge that it should be built from the ground up rather than imposed from the top. By concentrating on increased penetration of the world market by important industries, he believes an initiative has been taken that should survive the short-term vicissitudes that have bedevilled the British economy since the war.

The public should taste a little of his evangelism on such matters, as he intends to write during the mandatory three months' moratorium before a senior civil servant can join the private sector.

Business News, page 21

Restrict press monopoly groups, professor says

Evidence submitted to the Royal Commission on the Press today calls for the setting up of an independent press authority modelled on the Independent Broadcasting Authority.

The four main tasks of such a body would be to operate a levy on "excess" profits; to use the money raised for grants and loans to help new publications to come into being; to negotiate with their present owners the sale of vital newspapers and magazines to restrict the growth of monopolies; and to represent the interest of readers.

Professor Jeremy Tunstall, Professor of Sociology at the City University, London, author of several studies on journalists and the press, and until last summer a consultant to the royal commission, presents his evidence under the title *Will Fleet Street Survive until 1984?*

He answers the question with a negative. Fleet Street will not survive, at least in its present form. He expects one, perhaps two, national newspapers to disappear.

The introduction of computer technology into Fleet Street will not, he adds, save newspapers already under pressure. He believes that neither the Government, nor outside industrial concerns, particularly oil companies, nor other big newspaper groups should be allowed to rescue threatened newspapers.

If no small provincial newspaper or magazine group wants to buy them, he says, "sitting Fleet Street dailies should be allowed to die".

Professor Tunstall mainly considers three broad issues: the paradox that there is too much competition in Fleet Street and not enough in the provinces; the increasingly im-

portant role of oil interests in the behaviour of several of the biggest newspaper groups; and the failure to recognize that the crisis of the British press is not financial but rather a matter of political economy and legitimacy.

Britain's press is owned by a more tightly concentrated group than any comparable industrial nation, he says. Eight companies control more than four fifths of all daily and Sunday newspaper sales.

Fleet Street's troubles, however, mainly concerned the newspaper's newspapers. *The Daily Telegraph*, *The Sunday Telegraph*, and *The Guardian*, which were not part of big groups. But for all costs continued to rise while revenue declined.

There was also the matter of the increasing polarization between the popular tabloid newspapers, which were dependent on sales and locked into a sales war which could end only in death, and newspapers that depended much more on advertising revenue.

The overall result was that there was too much competition in Fleet Street with not enough revenue to support all the present publications. In the provinces there was too much monopoly in that most people had no real choice of evening newspaper. The effect of that was "excessively bland journalism".

The growing links between publishing, groups and oil interests are an important source of concern for Professor Tunstall. By rescuing *The Observer*, he says Atlantic Richfield threatened *The Sunday Telegraph* and indirectly *The Daily Telegraph*. Such subsidies also maintained rather than eliminated Fleet Street's present ills.

Goods servicing complaints increasing

By Our Commercial Editor

Complaints by consumers about the servicing of a wide range of goods are mounting, according to the annual report of the Director General of Fair Trading, published yesterday.

Complaints about the servicing of motor vehicles rose by 64 per cent in the year ended September 1976, compared with the previous 12 months. Those about cleaning services were up 35 per cent, about footwear by 25 per cent, about radio and television by nearly 12 per cent and about washing machines, refrigerators and cleaners by nearly 10 per cent.

Among complaints about goods the steepest rises were for motor vehicles (up 35 per cent to 44,438), furniture (up 32 per cent to 32,142) and clothing (up nearly 17 per cent to 41,795).

But there was a significant fall in the number of complaints about radio, television and hi-fi equipment and manufactured foods and drinks.

Mr Gordon Borrie, Director General of Fair Trading, states in the report that he is concerned about lack of progress in implementing the Consumer Credit Act, 1974. Many traders offering credit facilities to the public were late in applying for licences, and that delayed the first stage of the licensing programme.

More codes of practice are being discussed, Mr Borrie reports. Four were brought in last year. Talks have been held with trade associations representing the vehicle, tyre and furniture industries, and preliminary ones with others, including mail order publishers.

Last year new codes were introduced for shoe sales and repairs, radio and television retailing and repairing, and laundering and dry cleaning, bringing the total to 11.

Law Report March 10 1977

Court of Appeal

Sexual cases: proper approach to sentencing

Regina v Taylor and Others
Before Lord Justice Lawton. Mr Justice MacKenna and Mr Justice Gibson

[Judgment delivered March 4]

Sentences of imprisonment imposed on three men who had unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl of 14 were justified because, although the girl was a wanton and the men did not corrupt her, they confirmed her in her wantonness, and the purpose of the law was to protect such girls.

The Court of Appeal refused applications for leave to appeal against sentence by David Eric Roberts, aged 22, Geoffrey Simons, aged 28, and Derek Roy Taylor, aged 26, all of Derbyshire, who were convicted at Nottingham Crown Court (Judge Woods) of having unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under the age of 16.

Mr J. D. Wilcock for the applicants.

LORD JUSTICE LAWTON said that the applicants had pleaded guilty to having unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl who at the material time was 14. Roberts was sentenced to two months' imprisonment, and Simons and Taylor to 18 months. The offences with which they were charged could be described as simple offences, as they had each had sexual intercourse with the girl on many occasions.

The girl was undoubtedly a wanton. She was experienced in sexual matters before she met the three applicants. She kept a diary in which she recorded her sexual exploits.

Roberts said that she made approaches to him. At first he rejected her, but later succumbed and had sexual intercourse with her on many occasions. That went on for several months.

During that time the girl made approaches to Simons, and he started to have sexual intercourse with her. He knew all about her because she lived near the yard where he carried on business. Taylor was employed by Simons and must have known what was going on because she frequented the yard, and was sent away by the men working there. According to the girl, masturbation and oral sex took place with all the applicants. Roberts and Simons did not admit that oral sex took place, and that the court accepted. Taylor admitted there was oral sex between him and the girl.

The court was prepared to accept that each of the applicants was a man of good character and that the girl was a wanton. Some of her activities in the way of oral sex showed how she had become debauched before she met the three applicants. There was no suggestion that they had corrupted her. The girl was a victim of her own free will. The men were treating her as the village whore. Their only interest in her was their own sexual gratification. They were getting their sexual gratification with a girl of 14, and two of them knew she was going to school.

It was submitted that the fact the applicants had intercourse with the girl in those circumstances lessened the gravity of the offence. The court would not approach the case on that basis or corruption. The applicants, however, continued the girl's debauchery knowing how young she was. It was not a case of a man succumbing to the charms of a girl and regretting it after. These men went on and on and on, for their sexual gratification.

The trial judge was concerned with his responsibility. He passed sentences on February 18. In the weeks immediately before there had been considerable discussion in the media concerning the way in which the law was being applied with these cases. Cases had been reported of considerable leniency being extended to those convicted. There was a case of a young man being given a conditional discharge, which was the lowest form of penalty a Crown Court could impose for an indict-

able offence. Judges were reported as having made comments that such cases were not all that serious.

There was one case in which the Court of Appeal had shown leniency. The public, however, did not know the facts, and if they did they would not be surprised at the court's leniency. It appeared that the public did not appreciate the wide spectrum of guilt covered by the offence of unlawful sexual intercourse with a girl under 16. At one end was the young who started off in a virtuous friendship with a girl under 16 and ended up having sexual intercourse with her. At the other end was the man in a supervisory capacity, such as a school master or a social worker who set out to seduce a girl in his charge. The two types of case were very different. Most judges would take the view that in the case of a virtuous friendship ending in sexual intercourse it would be wholly inappropriate to impose a punitive sentence, whereas the man in the supervisory capacity ought to expect something near the maximum sentence allowed by law, two years' imprisonment.

In between there was a vast variety of penalties. The youth who picked up a girl at a local dance hall and ended up behind a bush having sexual intercourse with her should be fined. An older man in his twenties who picked up young girls at a dance could expect to go to prison. A young man who deliberately set out to seduce a girl under 16 should expect prison. An older man should expect prison. Such was the variety of penalties.

Mr Wilcock did not try to persuade the court that the climate of opinion in 1977 had changed. Judges were not in a position to decide if the climate of opinion had changed. Their background and life made it impossible for them to know what went on all over the country, in factories and offices. Their duty was to apply the law of the land.

For over 700 years the law of this country had concerned itself with offences committed when a man had intercourse with a young girl. In 1576 it was a misdemeanour to have intercourse with a girl under 12. In 1875 Parliament raised the age to 13, and in 1885 raised it again to 16. One reason for raising the age was to make it more difficult for young girls to drift into prostitution. In 1922 Parliament again considered the law. Far from relaxing it, it made it more severe and it became no defence that the man believed the girl to be over 16 (except in the case of a man under 24).

Once again, in 1956, Parliament looked at the whole range of sexual offences and incorporated them into the Sexual Offences Act, 1956. That was a modern Act, so it could not be said it was a law dating back to Victorian times. The range of guilt was so wide that there was ample room for mercy. In case it should be thought that the law of England reflected Victorian morality, it should be noted that the range of consent in most countries was 16. It was 16 in Scotland, Italy, Germany, Norway, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, and the United States. In the USSR it was 18. In Denmark it was 15.

Their Lordships were very conscious that the girl was a wanton, that she approached the men, and that they in no way initiated her corruption. They treated her as a whore many times. The law of England reflected Victorian morality, it should be noted that the range of consent in most countries was 16. It was 16 in Scotland, Italy, Germany, Norway, Canada, New Zealand, South Africa, and the United States. In the USSR it was 18. In Denmark it was 15.

The applications for leave to appeal against sentence were refused.

Solicitors: Registrar of Criminal Appeals.

Retirement tributes to Lord Justice Cairns

Lord Justice Cairns, a member of the Court of Appeal since 1970, retired on Friday after 51 years in the law. He sat as a judge in the Probate, Divorce and Admiralty Division from 1960 to 1970.

Tributes were paid to his Lordship in Court 19 where he has presided for several years. Mr John Mills, QC, said, on behalf of the Bar, that he wished to thank his Lordship for the things that he had done for justice, both in the law courts and outside, and for having been in the manner of doing those things, so nice. The Bar all wished his Lordship in his retirement the contentment that he had secured.

Mr Barry Sheen, QC, who spoke on behalf of the Admiralty Bar, said that it had been a great pleasure to appear before his Lordship. He said that his Lordship's judgments had always given the greatest satisfaction to the Bar, to the solicitors in the Admiralty and to the many of them shipowners who came to London to have their disputes justly resolved. His Lordship's

long experience in the maritime field had been of inestimable advantage to the world-wide shipping community.

Lord Justice Cairns, responding to the tributes that he would continue to sit on a part-time basis. His Lordship could only say, as Mark Twain said of the report of his death, that the report of his retirement had been exaggerated.

Presiding in the Court of Appeal was regarded as a most arduous judicial office, but he had also found it most interesting and enjoyable. Many people had contributed to his enjoyment. He had had the pleasure of relations with all his brethren in the court. He had received great help from many members of the Bar and from solicitors. The court associates and ushers had performed their tasks admirably. The shorthand writer had been of great assistance in accuracy and expedition. His clerk had been a loyal friend and helper through all his time as a judge. The law reports and the High Court journalists had always treated him most fairly and kindly. To all he was grateful.

There had been no reference at any stage of the present case to loss of pension rights. It was the duty of the industrial tribunal to raise the five heads of award.

Once the categories had been investigated it was for the aggrieved party to prove a specific loss.

dealt with in the same manner as fixtures during term time. Summonses will generally be heard on Tuesdays and Fridays, but there will be flexibility. It will not be necessary to establish that the matters are Long Vacation business within Order 64, rule 4, but the judge in charge of the list will exercise a discretion whether or not to accept fixtures for September.

Five heads of compensation

Tidman v Aveling Marshall Ltd
It is the duty of industrial tribunals when hearing complaints of unfair dismissal to raise themselves the five different categories of compensatory awards.

Immediately in the way of wages, loss of protection in respect of unfair dismissal or dismissal by reason of redundancy, and loss of pension rights. Mr Justice Kinnear, sitting in the Employment Appeal Tribunal, said that the tribunal allowed an appeal by Mr Robert William Tidman against an award of £237 compensation for unfair dismissal by Lincoln Industrial Tribunal against his employers, Aveling Marshall Ltd.

HIS LORDSHIP said that under paragraph 19 of Schedule 1 to the Trade Union and Labour Relations Act, 1974, an industrial tribunal had a duty to award compensation in such amount as it considered just and equitable. Beginning with *Norton Tool Co Ltd v Tewson* (1972) 1 CR 501 certain guidelines had been laid down for tribunals to follow and apply. Since then the additional head of loss of pension rights had been added. Questions of pension rights were likely to loom even larger in the future.

There had been no reference at any stage of the present case to loss of pension rights. It was the duty of the industrial tribunal to raise the five heads of award. Once the categories had been investigated it was for the aggrieved party to prove a specific loss.

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Russian plot to cripple defence of the West

Every thinking man and woman in Britain and America should take time out to read and consider the implications of the report printed on the opposite page.

The outcome will affect the lives of everyone in these two countries, more importantly the future of their children.

We have obtained the permission of the Editor of the Sunday Telegraph to reproduce this document as it appeared in his newspaper on Sunday Feb. 20th this year.

It reveals:

- 1 The incredibly swift penetration of vast areas and peoples of Southern Africa by the Russians and their mercenaries, the Cubans.
- 2 Precisely how they now control every aspect of life in Angola including forced labour and an intelligence network directly supervised by a KGB general and his staff.
- 3 The training of thousands of troops, assembly of Russian tanks and guns, and takeover of key ports in numerous countries both sides of Africa.
- 4 ABOVE ALL the alarming progress already made in the Soviet plan to deny to the West the vital Cape route which carries 70 per cent of the strategic materials essential to the defence of the NATO countries of which Britain is but one.

Robert Moss, an independent writer, and a team of Sunday Telegraph reporters in Southern Africa, London, and Washington, have uncovered the Kremlin's whole sinister Trojan Horse plot to seize Southern Africa and split the world in two defence-wise: and how Britain and America, even now, are actually aiding this under the cover of "Majority rule".

We challenge the new British Foreign Secretary and the new United States Secretary of State to answer this charge. Moreover we call upon the elected representatives of the British and American peoples to demand action now by their Governments to halt this Soviet threat to the freedom and the way of life of millions.

Make the democratic system work to protect YOUR future and the future of YOUR children. Send these pages to your MP. Insist on a response. Do it NOW.

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Moscow's next target in Africa

CAN the West learn from Angola's tragedy, or are we condemned to relive the experience? What the Russians learned from Angola is that war by proxy pays off. They will be strongly tempted to use the same technique in other places—and almost certainly in the assault on Rhodesia and South-West Africa.

The Cubans are Moscow's all-purpose mercenaries, but they are not the only proxy soldiers who are being deployed in the widening war for southern Africa.

The Nigerians are said to be heavily involved in Angola. Western intelligence sources report that Nigerian troops were present at battalion strength when the MPLA and the Cubans pushed south last year. According to UNITA sources in Paris, the Nigerian strength has since been reinforced.

UNITA sources claim to have tapes of radio intercepts showing that at least 5,000 Nigerian troops have been deployed in Angola. They are operating as far south as Moçimboa, and are also based in Lobito, Luanda and the eastern diamond mining town of Henrique de Carvalho. UNITA claims to have intercepted radio communications in English (the common language between the Nigerians and the Cubans and the MPLA), in the Ibo, Hausa and Yoruba dialects, and in a form of pidgin Creole that could indicate the presence of forces from Sierra Leone as well.

An intriguing sidelight is that UNITA also claims that a British shipping line played a key role in ferrying Nigerian troops and military supplies to Angola. Nigeria, rich in oil and boasting an army of some 210,000 men, can clearly afford to be more than rhetorical in its backing for the guerrilla movements of southern Africa.

The Tanzanians have also moved into the region. President Nyerere has put 1,400 of his troops into northern Mozambique to help the FRELIMO Government to suppress the major revolt of the Makonde tribes led by Ismael Kalande. Mozambique's army is largely recruited from the warlike Makonde.

Yet another African army is reported to have sent units south: Somali troops are said to be quietly moving into Mozambique. Rhodesian guerrillas in Maputo have been to Portuguese correspondents to help the FRELIMO forces. The story may not be as simple as it sounds. Somalia, like Cuba, is a Soviet satellite whose armed forces and intelligence services operate under the direct supervision of Russian officers. Although the Somali army is small (some 25,000 men), it is well-endowed with Soviet armour and has performed well in border skirmishes with the Ethiopians. The Somalis have 200 Soviet-made T-34 tanks and about 50 T-64s.

The black expeditionary forces' task may be to free the Cubans for a future offensive against Rhodesia, South-West Africa—or Zaire, which is also a prime target for the Russians. But the Cubans in Angola still have their hands full in coping with the continuing guerrilla war, and the total number there has probably been increased since the end of the South African campaign; some estimates range as high as 22,000.

There are more than 1,000 Cuban advisers and "technicians" in Mozambique, nominally assigned to the Semma sugar plantations or to the port of Beira. Many are believed to be military instructors for the ZIPA guerrillas from Rhodesia and the FRELIMO forces.

In Somalia, at least 600 Cuban instructors are attached to the Somali army and the pro-Somali guerrillas from Djibouti—the French-controlled port on the Red Sea that is expected to become independent later this year. The Cubans are also active in Equatorial Guinea, where President Macías has established one of the bloodiest dictatorships in black Africa. Some 200 Cuban instructors train his paramilitary forces and his personal bodyguard. There are another 300 Cuban advisers in Sékou Touré's Guinea.

In Sierra Leone, Cubans are training an internal security unit, and Cuban "technicians" have also been sent to the strategically placed former Portuguese possessions in West Africa: Guinea-Bissau, the Cape Verde Islands, and São Tomé e Príncipe.

The Cubans are particularly well-entrenched in Congo-Brazzaville, the main staging-point in their invasion of Angola. They maintain at least 400 men at the Pointe Noire docks and the Maya Maya air base, and there are reports that reinforcements have recently been moved in from Angola in preparation for an attempt to put renewed pressure on Zaire's President Mobutu, whose supply routes to the Atlantic are now endangered. In Tanzania there are at least 150 advisers and "technicians," some of them attached to the Tanzanian People's Defence Force.

All in all, it is not a bad effort for a Caribbean sugar-cane republic of eight million people. Of course, someone else is picking up the tabs. The Russians have not only been subsidising the Cuban economy to the tune of more than \$1 million a day; they invested over \$500 million in the Angolan campaign, and are believed to have supplied weaponry and equipment to Angola worth more than \$350 million in the year since the South Africans pulled out.

But Cuba's rôle as a Soviet proxy is even more striking if you take account of the Cuban presence in the Caribbean (where Castro's men are training Jamaican police) and in the Middle East (where 150 Cuban instructors are training international terrorists in Iraqi camps), not to mention the Cubans' efforts to take control of the



Paying the price for Angola—by ROBERT MOSS

non-aligned countries' news pool and the rôle of the Cuban intelligence service, the DGI, in orchestrating the activities of Latin American exile groups and transnational terrorists in Western Europe. Is it possible to imagine an anti-Communist country of the same size acting on the same scale today?

The strategic effect of the loss of Angola is summed up by two statements that oddly coincide: one from the Soviet paper *Izvestia*, in a major article last August; the other from South Africa's Prime Minister, Mr. Vorster, in his New Year's message. *Izvestia* said that "revolutionary events have seized southern Africa—the last strong bulwark of colonialism and racism—and the speed of the spread of the flame attests to the huge supplies of 'explosive material' accumulating there." Mr. Vorster, in simple but chilling words, showed that the message had not been lost on him: "The storm has not struck yet. We are only experiencing the whirlwind that goes before it."

Were the effects of the Cuban victory foreseen by the men who sat down in the American Senate on December 17, 1975, to debate whether or not they should vote to cut off all United States support to the anti-Soviet movements in Angola? With a few honourable exceptions, it seemed that the Senators were talking about another war. Senator after Senator recalled the anguish of Vietnam, the peril of getting sucked into another quagmire, the hopelessness of trying to shape events in a far-off place of which Americans knew nothing.

Continuing fight against Marxists

Hubert Humphrey caught the prevailing mood: "The United States better start taking care of things it knows how to take care of. We know so little of Africa, the 600 and some tribes that make up Africa... I say it is like a different world."

Senator McGovern jumped up to argue that it made no difference which of the black movements won anyway. Senator Tunney thought the rival Angolan movements were only nominally pro-Soviet or pro-American. At heart, all of them were "basically pro-Angolan, Socialist and highly nationalistic." Most of the Senators who spoke that day found it difficult to believe that the Russians would be able to establish a secure foothold in Angola, and some suggested that Angola could prove to be Russia's Vietnam.

It was not a wholly absurd idea. To this day, three anti-Soviet guerrilla movements are continuing the struggle in Angola: UNITA in the south and centre of the country, the FNLA in the north, and the secessionists of FLEC in the Cabinda enclave. Unlike Left-wing revolutionaries from other countries who fly off to university sinecures or their Swiss bank accounts after suffering defeat on their home ground, Jonas Savimbi is carrying on the battle deep inside Angola.

He has claimed that UNITA has 22,000 armed supporters, although Western intelligence sources believe that the figure is probably no more than 6,000. It is virtually impossible to get reliable information on the guerrillas' military capacities, but one index of UNITA's ability to harass the régime is the fact that no train has been able to cover the whole length of the Benguela railway—from the Zambian border to the coast—since the beginning of the war. UNITA's political base is still largely intact, and the MPLA has had little success in building up support among the Ovimbundu people's traditional UNITA sympathisers.

This means that it might well be possible for UNITA and the other anti-Soviet groups to inflict a serious humiliation on the Cubans and the MPLA if they could count on effective outside support. But no Western Power is disposed to play the part of armourer and

adviser to UNITA in the way that the Russians and the Chinese played it for the Vietcong.

Now that the MPLA régime has been admitted to the United Nations, backing UNITA has become diplomatically tricky—although some Western Governments are more strait-laced than others. The French were ahead of the stampede to recognise the MPLA back in February, 1976 (much to the annoyance of their EEC partners, who had expected to be consulted) but this did not inhibit them from remaining deeply involved with UNITA and the FNLA.

South Africans maintain contacts

Zambia's President Kaunda has come under intense pressure from his "frontline" colleagues to sever all links with UNITA, and finally had to ask Jorge Sangumba, UNITA's chief foreign spokesman, to leave his customary haunt, the Intercontinental Hotel in Lusaka. Jorge now gives his patronage to the Intercontinental Hotel in Kinshasa.

The South Africans maintain contact with the anti-Soviet movements, and there is a large colony of white Angolan refugees. But they are inhibited by their desire not to provide a pretext for a Communist-backed invasion of South-West Africa.

Ironically, if any outside power is ready to adopt a "forward policy" in Angola, it could still prove to be China. The Chinese have backed both the FNLA and UNITA in the past. Many UNITA leaders, including Savimbi's number two, Miguel Ntatu Puna, have received training in China. Puna complained to me when I last saw him about the rigours of the Chinese training schedule (which continued into the night with political indoctrination sessions). The Chinese cut off support to UNITA at the end of 1975, when hard evidence of South Africa's involvement seeped out.

But the Chinese are angry that they have lost nearly every point to the Russians in the contest for power in black Africa—despite the fact that they have spent considerably more in economic aid. So renewed contact with UNITA is a possibility, if a remote one.

With or without outside backing, UNITA's proven survival capacity worries the Russians. The Soviet ambassador in Luanda, Boris Vorobyev, is said to have been instructed to press the MPLA to do a deal with UNITA. President Neto and the Cubans are reluctant, but the biggest stumbling-block is that neither Savimbi nor any other of the top-ranking UNITA leaders has been ready to accept the idea of a deal with the MPLA—which, in current circumstances, would amount at best to a conditional surrender. KGB agents have therefore been trying to sound out UNITA representatives abroad to discover whether it is possible to create a rift between Savimbi and lower-level cadres, so far without notable success.

Angola today cannot be objectively described as an independent country. Control of its armed forces, its secret police, its economy, its civil administration and its educational system is in the hands of Russians, Cubans and East Europeans, and the MPLA itself is being remoulded into an orthodox Communist party. The Cuban garrisons are the basic guarantee that the régime will not only survive but toe the line.

The Cubans have divided Angola into six military regions, with garrisons in the major towns. Five major mopping-up operations have been launched against the anti-Communist forces since the South Africans withdrew, but despite the savagery with which the Cubans and the MPLA have dealt with the civil population large swathes of Angola are still contested zones.

The continued flight of refugees over the 1,200-mile border of South-West Africa is an eloquent comment on the way the people of southern Angola

Bush war: Peking-trained major leading victory chants among UNITA troops. The picture comes from UNITA-held territory in southern Angola, the first on-the-spot evidence of the continuing war against the MPLA Government in Luanda. That struggle still goes on over large areas of the country.

regard their new masters. Some 10,000 have been absorbed into South-West Africa.

A conservative intelligence estimate has 3,700 Cuban troops currently in the central-western region, embracing Lobito, Huambo (formerly Nova Lisboa) and Bie (formerly Silva Porto); 2,000 in each of the northern, eastern and southern regions; and 3,000 in the Cabinda enclave, where some of the fiercest fighting is taking place. There are at least 1,500 Cuban troops in Luanda.

This gives a total of about 14,000 of whom 6,000 are infantry. The Cuban forces include an armoured regiment with 120 T-54 and T-34 tanks and 1,900 men, an armoured car regiment with 70 Soviet-made BRDM vehicles and 1,600 men, an anti-aircraft battalion and five regiments equipped with multi-barrelled rocket-launchers.

The Cubans are also the key element in the new Angolan air force. They pilot all of the MPLA's Soviet-supplied planes, which include a dozen MIG-21s, 10 MIG-17s, helicopters, and Antonov-2 light transport planes. They also pilot some of the scores of light aircraft that were bequeathed by the Portuguese forces. Cubans command the air bases throughout Angola, and are supervising the construction of new air bases at Huambo, Moçimboa and Cabo Lindo and the extension of existing air fields. This could be the prelude to a Soviet attempt to use Angola as the base for a major offensive against South-West Africa.

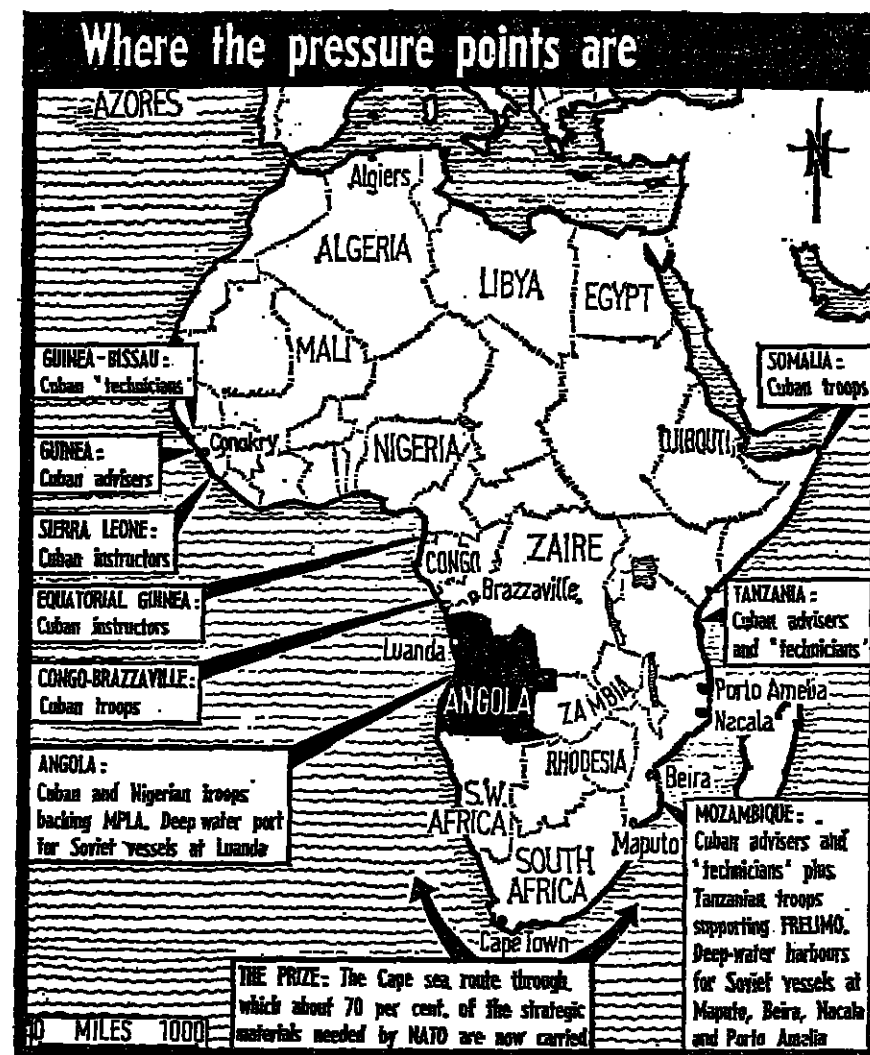
But Cuba's involvement is not restricted to troops. The Cuban ambassador in Luanda is Oscar Oramas, one of the architects of Cuba's invasion, a senior figure in the Cuban Communist party, an old Africa hand (who was formerly ambassador in Conakry) and, most important of all, a key operative of the Cuban intelligence service, or DGI, a satellite of the KGB directly supervised by a KGB general and his Soviet staff. The new Angolan intelligence service, the DISA, is directly controlled by the DGI.

Cubans training union leaders

Similarly, Cuban advisers have assumed key positions throughout the civil service, and notably in the Interior Ministry, the Education Ministry, and in the supervision of the MPLA's programme of "political mobilisation," which is supposed to drum up support for a "mass Marxist-Leninist party." The Cubans are training Angolan trade union leaders, and the syllabus on offer at the Lesauro Pama trade union college in Marianao includes Marxist philosophy and Cuban history. The Cubans are strongly represented on President Neto's staff, and he is said to have entrusted his personal security to them. They share control of the Finance Ministry and the Bank of Angola with the Russians. The recent measures to establish a new Angolan currency, the kwanza, set an example to any other Government that might wish to wipe out its middle class at a stroke. Angolan families are allowed (on a one-for-one basis) to exchange the old Portuguese Angolan escudos for kwanzas, but only up to the limit of 20,000 kwanzas. Anyone who has more than that stashed away has to accept that his savings have been turned into worthless paper.

Last July, Angola became the first African country to join the Soviet-controlled Council of Mutual Economic Assistance (CMEA). Since Neto's visit to Moscow in October, the trickle of East European technicians, agricultural scientists and managers has become a flood.

Between them, the Cubans and the Russians, now decide who can enter and leave Angola, what civil liberties (if any) individuals and organisations will be allowed, what the country will export and import, and how much



money will be printed. On the coffee plantations, Cuban supervisors are said to operate a system of forced labour: workers are shifted from one place to another, or from one job to another, without notice or appeal.

These are examples of what "satellite" means. But foreign troops and advisers can be shown the door.

The Russians remember what happened in Egypt in 1973, when Sadat turned against them, just as the Cubans remember the eviction of their mission from Brazzaville in 1968, before Marien Ngouabi seized power. So an effort is being made in Angola, as in Mozambique, to transform the ruling movement into an orthodox Communist party.

Soviet writers have described in detail how this effort should proceed. The classical text is a book entitled "Political Parties of Africa," published in Moscow in 1970. Its main editor is Vasily Solodovnikov, now Soviet Ambassador in Lusaka. Solodovnikov accepts that it is unrealistic to expect to create a Communist society in Africa overnight. It will be necessary to begin by working through "revolutionary democratic parties," like the movements that came to power in Guinea, Congo and Tanzania, and like the MPLA in Angola. These movements may start out as a mish-mash of nationalism, Marxism and tribalism, but they include activists "who are inspired by the ideas of scientific Socialism"—in plain words, Communists.

Solodovnikov's thesis is working out in Angola. During his visit to Moscow last October, Agostinho Neto signed a 20-year friendship treaty with Russia that provided for regular exchanges between the MPLA and the Soviet Communist party. Soon after his return, the MPLA announced that Angola was to be described officially as a "Marxist-Leninist republic."

It is perhaps a toss-up whether the MPLA in Angola or FRELIMO in Mozambique has gone further towards achieving Sovietisation. The MPLA does not seem, as yet, to have matched FRELIMO's regulations that dictate the maximum thickness of the soles (and the heels) of shoes, according to the age and sex of the wearer.

Both President Podgorny and Leonid Brezhnev are expected to visit Africa this year. Their main ports of call will be Maputo and (probably) Dar-es-Salaam. The message could be that the West is on the retreat and that Russia is becoming the dominant power in Africa. Their strength is that they are acting according to a global strategy—while Western leaders are not.

The ring of naval and air facilities that the Russians have acquired around the African coast, and the deep-water harbours where they now have the opportunity to create new naval bases, include Luanda and four excellent ports in Mozambique: Maputo, Beira, Nacala and Porto Amélia. Somalia, Congo and all of what used to be Portuguese Africa now have Governments that can be called Marxist, and Soviet-bloc military advisers, troops and intelligence officers are present throughout most of the continent.

But the most important thing to grasp about the Soviet design for southern Africa is that it is essentially negative: it has been accurately described, in an admirable paper from the Institute for the Study of Conflict, as "a strategy of denial"—denial, that is, of raw materials and communications.

Threat to Cape route

A leading Soviet Africanist, E. Tarabin, predicts that the West's dependence on African raw materials will increase rapidly over the rest of the decade, and that imports of chromium (from Rhodesia and South Africa) will double. Soviet experts also stress that much of Africa's mineral wealth lies in the southern half. The gold, diamonds,

platinum, copper and other industrial metals are rich stakes to play for.

Geography is just as important as natural resources. If the Cape route—which carries about 70 per cent. of the strategic materials required by NATO countries—could be denied to the West, the world could be cut in half vertically by the closing of the Suez Canal as well. There is no alternative to the Cape route, not just because the Suez Canal can be closed overnight and Western Europe is so dependent on Middle Eastern oil, but because technology has bypassed the Canal: the supertankers cannot get through it.

The Communist invasion of Angola was a step toward the fulfilment of Russia's grand design: the domination of the whole of southern Africa.

By giving up in Angola, the Western Powers threw away a unique opportunity to hold the line against Soviet expansion in southern Africa. Why unique? Because in Angola, the reality of the Soviet threat was not obscured by racial agitation—at any rate, not until Marxist propagandists set about trying to turn the South Africans into the villains of the piece.

The war in Angola was not a war of black men versus white men. It was a war between rival black guerrilla movements and their foreign helpers. It presented a clear-cut choice between a pro-Soviet group that promised to turn Angola into a Marxist-Leninist republic and its pro-Western opponents who promised democratic elections and guarantees for private investors.

Learning from Angola, the Russians are determined to ensure that if they can engineer the removal of the white Government in Salisbury, there will not be a subsequent battle for the spoils between pro-Soviet and anti-Soviet blacks, which might again divide black Africa. How can they ensure that? The spade-work has already been done. The bulk of the black guerrilla forces have been united by the Nkomo-Mugabe alliance, under the umbrella of the Patriotic Front.

The five neighbouring African Governments—which were at loggerheads during the Angolan war—have been persuaded to give their support to Nkomo and Mugabe. Britain and America say they will refuse to accept any settlement that is rejected by these two, even though they patently cannot claim to speak for the majority of black Rhodesians and the only hope of a civilised solution in Rhodesia lies in an agreement between Ian Smith and more representative black leaders such as Bishop Muzorewa.

The Soviet calculation—which seems to be paying off so far—is that the assault on southern Africa will be tolerated, if not aided and abetted by the West, so long as it is carried out in the name of "majority rule." The fact that, for most of black Africa, "majority rule" means one-party dictatorship or primitive despotism is conveniently ignored.

The West's lost chance

But what is still less excusable is the neglect by Western politicians of one of the abiding lessons of Angola: that if "majority rule" means government with the consent of the people, then it can only survive in Africa if it is defended against Communist aggression.

Now Britain and America say that they will not accept a settlement worked out between blacks and whites inside Rhodesia—or, for that matter, South-West Africa. The Marxist guerrilla leaders must be included; it seems that it does not matter over-much to either Western Government if the whites have any say.

If Angola is any guide—and I am convinced that it is—this is a prescription for another Marxist dictatorship, imposed by force of arms, which would provide the base for black guerrillas and Soviet proxy troops to attack the ultimate target: South Africa.

THE END

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FOR THE RECORD/HOME

SAS patrol cleared of main Dublin charge

From Christopher Walker
Dublin

A dangerous threat to Anglo-Irish cooperation against the IRA was removed on March 8 when eight members of the Special Air Service Regiment (SAS) were cleared of possessing firearms with intent to endanger life, an offence carrying a maximum sentence of 20 years.

The three judges in the Special Criminal Court in Dublin took only 15 minutes to reach their verdict.

Although the men were each fined £100 on a lesser charge of possessing weapons without a valid certificate, the verdict was welcomed by British and Irish officials.

Mr Justice McMahon, president of the court, said the prosecution had failed to prove beyond reasonable doubt that the crossing of the border by the men last May was reckless or intentional.

Major Brian Baty, SAS commanding officer at Bessbrook, south Armagh, at the time of the arrests, had told the court that British forces regarded the border as inviolate at all times.

He said that a map-reading error by the soldiers involved was the cause of the mistake.



New WRAC director: Colonel Anne Fields, Deputy Director of the Women's Royal Army Corps, United Kingdom Land Forces (above), is to become Director of the Women's Royal Army Corps in June, as a brigadier, in succession to Brigadier Eileen Nolan, who is to retire.

Sentences on two men are suspended

Two of the defendants in a South Wales corruption trial appeared at Cardiff Crown Court again on March 7 to have their sentences suspended for two years.

Mr Justice Watkins said that on reflection over the past 10 days he had decided to take that course because David Walter Parker, aged 38, of Pant yr Athro, Llangain, Dyfed, had acted commendably in admitting his guilt and assisting the police.

What Richard David Tobias, aged 28, of Rodmell Slope, Finchley, London, had done was to cover up misdeeds perpetrated by others of stronger will and greater age. Mr Parker had been sentenced to nine months' imprisonment and Mr Tobias to 15 months.

BBC upheld over dismissal

Senhor Antonio Cartazo, a Portuguese journalist who maintained that he was unfairly dismissed by the BBC in 1975, had his application rejected by an industrial tribunal in London and March 8.

The decision follows a similar one last month in the case of Senhor Jorge Ribeiro, also a programme assistant in the BBC's external services.

Second 'Angry' girl paroled

Hilary Creek, aged 28, one of the 'Angry Brigade' members who was sentenced in December, 1975, to 10 years' imprisonment for conspiracy to cause explosions, is to leave Holloway prison on parole next month. She will attend a course at Swansea University.

Anna Mendleson, another member of the brigade, who was sentenced at the same time, was released on parole last November.

Arts Council rebukes critic

The Arts Council has replied to criticism of its aid to composers made on March 2 Master of the Queen's Music.

It issued a detailed reply to the criticism of its aid to composers made by Mr Malcolm Williamson, Master of the Queen's Music.

Denying that it took "republicans" against people who disagreed with it, as Mr Williamson maintained, the council said: "There can be no other body that more regularly succours those who persist in biting the hand that feeds them."

MP accused of shoplifting

William Ferguson Mountgomerie, aged 49, Conservative MP for Altrincham and Sale, was remanded on bail of £50 at Huddersfield Magistrates' Court, Westminister, accused of shoplifting on March 8. He is to contest the charge, of stealing two books, valued £8.90, from the Army and Navy Stores.

Tories plan how they will live with unions

By Paul Routledge
Labour Editor

Senior Conservative politicians are working out a philosophy on living with the unions to put before the electorate. Mrs Thatcher, the party leader, believes that a Conservative government could reach an understanding with the TUC on wages.

A new kind of relationship with the labour movement, based on Swedish and West German experience and respecting the unions for the power they wield, is under consideration by the Shadow Cabinet. Although the policy is still in embryo, it seems that Mrs Thatcher is thinking of a general agreement with the unions, and employers, on the scope for annual pay and price rises, but with the Government

firmly in control of the economy. Neither the unions nor employers would have a veto.

Essential to such a package would be agreement on the rate of economic growth and the level of wage increases it could generate without causing inflation. There would be a "general guide" on collective bargaining that a Conservative Cabinet would expect both sides of industry to observe in the national interest.

That approach, Mrs Thatcher believes, will not only be a vote winner at the next general election, but might also prove attractive to the unions after three years of the TUC's social contract with Labour, because it restores the unions to their role of representing members rather than participating behind the scenes in government.

Mr Carter for May summit in London on economy

By David Blake
Economics Correspondent

The next Western economic summit will be held in London on May 7 and 8. It was announced from Downing Street on March 8.

The meeting, with Mr Callaghan in the chair, will be attended by the heads of government of Canada, France, West Germany, Italy, Japan and the United States. President Carter has confirmed that he will attend, in spite of speculation earlier this year that he might not want to leave Washington so early in his Presidency. The summit will discuss what the Prime Minister recently described as "the deepest recession that the world has seen for 40 years".

In Whitehall, it is believed that coping with the problems facing both developed and developing countries cannot be done by individual nations acting separately and that an international approach is called for. The two previous summit meetings, at Rambouillet in France in 1975 and in Puerto Rico in June, 1976, produced no dramatic new initiatives. However, the time Mr Callaghan is believed to hope that something might be done to cut unemployment, especially among young people.

The meeting is expected to look at the prospects of economic recovery during the rest of the decade, and in particular the possibility that the present flat period in the recovery of Western Europe may degenerate into a fully-fledged recession in 1978.

Hospital grades 'low'

By Our Social Services Correspondent

Hospitals are in danger of losing highly qualified social workers because new appointments are being offered at grades too low to attract the best candidates, the Central Council for Education and Training in Social Work said in evidence to the Royal Commission on the Health Service.

The risk to hospitals has been caused by the way local authorities have reacted since hospital social workers were transferred to their employment from the health service.

Those already in post were given appropriate grades but new appointments were being advertised at grades too low to attract the right quality of social workers.

Protecting consumers over 'black lists'

By John Groser

Orders and regulations to provide teeth for the Consumer Credit Act, 1974, have been laid before Parliament. They offer improved protection for consumers and pave the way for further reforms.

Mr Fraser, Minister of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, told a press conference in London on March 8 that he felt that one of the main protections for the consumer was the licensing, by the Office of Fair Trading, of those who operate in the credit industry.

Licensing is taking place in stages, but one of the new orders requires owners and creditors in hire transactions to obtain a licence before October 1978. Such licences will be valid for three years.

Non-corporate traders who never make credit agreements above £30 will not need to apply for a licence for the moment. Licensing of small credit brokers may also be deferred.

An important regulation relating to credit-reference agencies will enable the Government to take positive action to protect the interests of consumers placed on credit "black lists" by professional investigating agencies.

From May 16, creditors, owners, or negotiators will be obliged to give a consumer, within seven working days of receiving a written request, the name and address of a credit reference agency that has been consulted.

The agencies will then be required, within 15 working days of a written request and on the payment of a 25p fee, to let consumers have copies of files relating to them and a statement of their rights of correction.

Further regulations require creditors and owners who have refused to make an agreement regulated by the Act to tell any credit broker involved the name and address of a credit reference agency that has been consulted so that the broker can pass that information to the consumer.

From November 16 credit reference agencies that have consumers' credit worthiness will have to send the revised information to traders to whom they had supplied the earlier information.

Supply of goods

A Law Commission working paper makes proposals designed to introduce consistency into the law on the obligations of a supplier of goods, whatever form of contract—sale, barter, hire, or hire-purchase—is involved. Law Commission Working Paper No 71. Law of Contract: Implied terms on contracts for the supply of goods (Stationery Office, £1.10).

Savings petrol

A report published by the Department of Energy recommends that all new cars should be fitted with radial tyres, that consumer petrol should be withdrawn from sale and that motorists should be encouraged to drive more carefully to save fuel.

Vanbrugh Castle sold

Vanbrugh Castle, at Blackheath, south London, until recently the home of the RAF Benevolent Fund preparatory school, has been bought by the Blackheath Preservation Trust for almost £200,000.

Tote compensation

Mr Woodrow Wyatt, chairman of the Horserace Totalisator (Tote) Board, has offered compensation to the off-course bookmakers whom the Tote, according to its evidence to the Royal Commission on Gambling, wants to take over.

Classics option

A report published by the Department of Education and Science shows that there is only one chance in two of classics being offered in a local comprehensive school, though there are wide variations between regions.

Dearer bread

Shopkeepers have been allowed by the Government to charge 1p more for a large loaf.

Unit faces closure

Britain's only disaster research unit, at Bedford University, may close because of economic cuts.



Crosland tributes: The former Foreign Secretary's widow and daughters leaving Westminster Abbey on March 7 after a service of thanksgiving for his life and work. Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge, minister responsible for the arts, said Anthony Crosland was a solitary man who cared only for series issues but was intensely loyal to his friends.

"He was more genuinely socialist than anyone I have ever met", Lord Donaldson said. "But it would be wrong to suppose that he was largely cerebral; he was highly emotional in some ways, caring only for

series issues because he could not bear small talk or social gossip."

The Dean of Westminster, Dr Edward Carpenter, said Mr Crosland was to be remembered for his sharp, incisive and lively mind, applied with vigour, diligence and concern to the complex problems of the modern world.

The congregation included most of Mr Crosland's former Cabinet colleagues, led by Mr Callaghan, the Prime Minister. Three former Prime Ministers also attended, Lord Home of the Hirsel, Sir Harold Wilson, and Mr Heath.

FOR THE RECORD/FOREIGN

Survivors stand vigil as Romanian teams clear away the rubble

From Dossa Trevisan
Bucharest, March 9

Numb and exhausted survivors of the earthquake which hit Romania last Friday, killing more than 1,000 people, have been burying their dead as rescue parties comb through the wrecked cities for more survivors.

While the toll keeps rising, each day more survivors have been brought out from the rubble.

Families have been standing in front of their ruined houses in the hope that those who are missing would be found alive. In one case, eight people, including a mother nursing her baby, were dug out of the rubble after being trapped for 80 hours.

Another survivor was Miss Marina Stanca, aged 30, the country's Olympic fencing champion. She had been entombed for 84 hours with her father, Professor Octavian Stanca, a gynaecologist.

But Miss Stanca, whose husband was away on a business trip, lost her five-year-old daughter, her mother and her grandmother in the earthquake.

Another casualty was Alexandru Ivascu, the novelist, who was one of the first victims to be buried in a cemetery outside Bucharest which is being prepared to take hundreds of those killed in the earthquake. A prominent poet, Anotole Bacanski, who was among several other intellectuals in a house which collapsed, has not yet been found. Nor has Romania's best-known actor, Tom Caragiu.

The tragedy could not have come at a worse time of the day. For restaurants throughout the country were crowded with evening diners and in many homes families sat watching television.

It is estimated that 20,000 buildings have been destroyed or damaged in Bucharest alone, and that the number of injured for the whole country has risen to more than 6,000.

The tremor left scars in many cities from Ploesti, the major oil and industrial city, to Galati, pride of Romania's post-war industrial achievements. Industrial damage is vast. Romania's largest heavy engineering works, the 23 August plant in Bucharest, has been badly damaged as well as other government buildings, including the nuclear research centre, and nine hospitals.

It is clear that the Romanian economy will be set back by several years, and that it will take months before many of its factories can function normally. International loans will have to be sought to rebuild the factories and cities.

Schools and the university, which were closed at first, have now reopened and the Government, in an attempt to get life back to normal quickly, has ordered a return to work wherever possible.

This is the third major earthquake to strike Romania. The first was in 1902 and the second in 1940.



An injured man is brought out of the ruins.

ing the nuclear research centre, and nine hospitals.

But it was remarkable how quickly Bucharest organized medical services for the injured. A university clinic I visited had received 140 seriously injured patients, but there was no sign of panic. Doctors were on duty 24 hours a day and field hospitals had been set up.

A doctor described the earthquake as "worse than a bombardment" and diplomats and numerous foreign tourists said that Bucharest has been badly damaged as well as other government buildings, including the nuclear research centre, and nine hospitals.

Saudi Arabia surprises African leaders with a promise of \$1,000m in aid

From Robert Fisk
Cairo, March 9

Saudi Arabia has told the Afro-Arab meeting here that it will give at least \$1,000 (£500m) for the development of African countries.

African foreign ministers had appealed for \$2,000m from Arab countries in return for further political support in the Middle East. They pointed out that their economies were being savagely hit by high oil prices. The Arabs said they could not afford such a sum.

After President Sadat of Egypt offered to contribute only \$1m in cash and other aid, the Africans were not expecting any sign of generosity from the Arab world.

But Prince Saud al-Faisal, standing at the rostrum of the main hall in the Arab Socialist Union headquarters in Cairo, announced the aid in an off-the-cuff manner that stunned the African heads of state.

Then, as the Prince explained the details, the delegates cheered and clapped almost continuously.

The conference—the first of its kind ever held with 60 Arab and African kings, princes and heads of state in attendance—has been more a symbol of political aspirations than of positive future action.

President Sadat spoke of Arab support for the Africans' struggle against the governments of South Africa and Rhodesia. Mr Yasser Arafat, the chairman of the Palestine Liberation Organization, referred to "the unholy alliance between Pretoria, Salisbury and Tel Aviv". President Amin of Uganda attacked Britain and the United States for their policies in Africa.

And at a press conference in the city, the Ugandan leader repeated his intention to come to London for the Commonwealth conference in June—whatever the attitude of the British Government. He said he would bring 250 officials with him to help "point out the weaknesses of Britain".



He declared that the British had "no authority" to prevent his visit to London. "Whether they like it or not, I will go", he said, hammering his fist on the table in front of him.

The Cairo summit also provided the occasion for a meeting between King Husain of Jordan and Mr Arafat.

They had lunch together—their first private meeting since the Palestinian guerrillas were driven out of Jordan in 1970—and it is believed they agreed to a formal constitutional link between the Palestinians and Jordan.

It is understood this tie-up will be made before there is any resumption of the Middle East peace conference in Geneva. No further details of the meeting were disclosed.

Day by day

Thursday, March 3

Human rights: President Carter's defence of Soviet dissidents brings an angry response from the Moscow press. Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, says Britain will not discriminate on the issue. "We will apply the same standards and judgments to communist countries as we do to Chile, Uganda and South Africa."

US Congress: The House of Representatives imposes a new code of ethics upon itself. Representatives will in future have to disclose their wealth and any money they will not be allowed to earn more than an extra 15 per cent of their salaries from lectures or accept gifts of more than \$100 (about £58) from lobbyists. They were given a pay raise of \$13,000 bringing their salaries up to \$57,500.

Friday, March 4

Uganda: The Anglican Bishop of Kampala, the Right Rev Brian Herd, is expelled. Rhodesia: The Land Tenure Amendment Bill is given exactly the required two thirds majority in Parliament. Mr Smith's Government is saved from defeat by three black independent MPs.

Saturday, March 5

President Carter: The first "phone in" is broadcast live from the White House; 42 people put questions to the President.

More martyrs: Six Ugandan actors rehearsing a play about St Charles Lwanga, burnt to death in 1885, are murdered. Their burnt bodies are found 24 miles from Kampala.

Sunday, March 6

Mr Rabin: The Israeli Prime Minister arrives in Washington on a six-day official visit. Peking press: Mr Hu Chi-weï is appointed editor of the People's Daily and Mr Chang Kuo-feng is head of broadcasting. The moves come after the similar replacement of leftist propagandists by moderates in the newspaper Red Flag and the New China news agency.

New Zealand: Sir Keith Holy-



appoints Dr Hans Helmuth Kruet as his new Ambassador. University: closes for the second time in a month after riots by students in protest over unemployment among graduates.

Tuesday, March 8

European Parliament: Signor Emilio Colombo, a former Christian Democrat Prime Minister of Italy, is elected president of the European Parliament by 35 votes to 77. Two previous ballots failed to produce a clear winner. In the final ballot, Signor Colombo defeats Mr Michael Yeates, who represents the Irish Flannia Fail Party and is the son of the poet, William Butler Yeates.

Dealer indicted: Mr Frank Lloyd, the head of the Marlborough Art Galleries in London, New York and elsewhere, is indicted in New York on a charge of tampering with some of the evidence used in an eight-month-long court case involving the paintings of Mark Rothko, the American expressionist painter. Mr Lloyd's whereabouts are not known and Interpol has been informed.

Wednesday, March 9

Belgian crisis: Mr Leo Tindemans, the Prime Minister,

abandons attempts to run the country as the head of his minority Government for a week of crisis. He announces a general election for April 17, nearly a year before his four-year term of office was due to expire.

The political crisis began when Mr Tindemans, a Dutch-speaking Socialist Christian, expelled the small, French-speaking federalist Rassemblement Wallon from his coalition.

Carter conference: President Carter says he will not intervene over the granting of permission for Concord to land at Kennedy airport, New York. He also tells a broadcast press conference that he envisages defence lines for Israel outside its own boundaries and independent "secure borders" to be negotiated with the Arabs.

Journalist expelled: Mr Ian Jack, of The Sunday Times, is ordered to leave India as the result of an article he wrote as part of his coverage of the general election.

Spilling charge: A former spokesman for West Berlin's ruling Social Democratic Party and his former wife are charged with spying for East Germany for eight years.

Professor deported: Professor Wolfgang Thomas claims he was deported from South Africa because of his sympathy for Namibian (South-West African) nationalists. He was director of the University of the Western Cape's Institute of Social Development.

Chile resignations: Ministers resigned en bloc to give President Pinochet a free hand in forming a new government.

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Opposition cries foul after Bhutto poll sweep

From Hasan Akhtar
Rawalpindi, March 9

Mr Bhutto's ruling Pakistan People's Party swept Monday's general election, gaining 155 of the 200 seats at stake and bringing immediate allegations by the opposition Pakistan National Alliance that the polls were rigged.

The Prime Minister described the result as a genuine landslide win. Air Marshal Asghar Khan, leader of the nine-party Alliance, called it "a complete farce". The former Air Force chief said the Government had massively rigged the elections, particularly manipulating the women's vote, which is nearly 40 per cent of the 30 million electorate. He demanded that the head of the Election Commission resign "a disreputable man" for having failed to conduct honest and fair elections.

Mr Bhutto denied the allegations and said the National Alliance lost because of its obscurantism and threat to shove women's heads if they failed to follow Islamic injunctions. Pakistan's women, he said, were not prepared to be sent back to bondage.

He said as soon as he was able to form his new government he would consider lifting the state of emergency gradually. It would, however, depend on the opposition. If it adopted "agitational politics" it might not be possible to lift the emergency soon.

Although Mr Bhutto insisted that the defeat of the opposition was exactly according to his original expectations, the results in fact shattered the pre-election calculations of the most optimistic of his followers. They have shocked opposition supporters, who predicted, at least close second to the ruling party.

In the Punjab, where until the eve of the elections popular expectations were that the Alliance would have the edge over the People's Party, the opposition in fact won only eight of the 115 seats contested. No opposition candidate was returned from Lahore. The Alliance's main gains were in North-West Frontier Province, where Begum Nasim Wali Khan, wife of the leader of the outlawed National Awami Party, stood as an opposition candidate and helped it regain lost ground. The Alliance took 17 seats there to the ruling party's eight.

The Alliance did not contest Baluchistan in protest at the heavy deployment of troops there.

The final results were Pakistan People's Party, 155; Pakistan National Alliance, 36; Muslim League, one, Independent, six. Ten women MPs and six MPs representing minority communities will be elected by national and provincial assemblies later to bring the National Assembly up to its full strength of 216.

All 14 members of Mr Bhutto's Cabinet were returned, but among prominent losers for People's Party were Mr Mian Parooq Ali, the Speaker, and Mr Nasrullah Khattak, Chief Minister of North-West Frontier Province. The opposition's leading figures, Air Marshal Asghar Khan, Maulana Mufi Mahmud and Begum Nasim Wali Khan, all won. Begum Wali Khan is the daughter-in-law of Khan Abdul Ghaffar Khan, the Pathan leader, described by The Times as a "Prisoner of Conscience".

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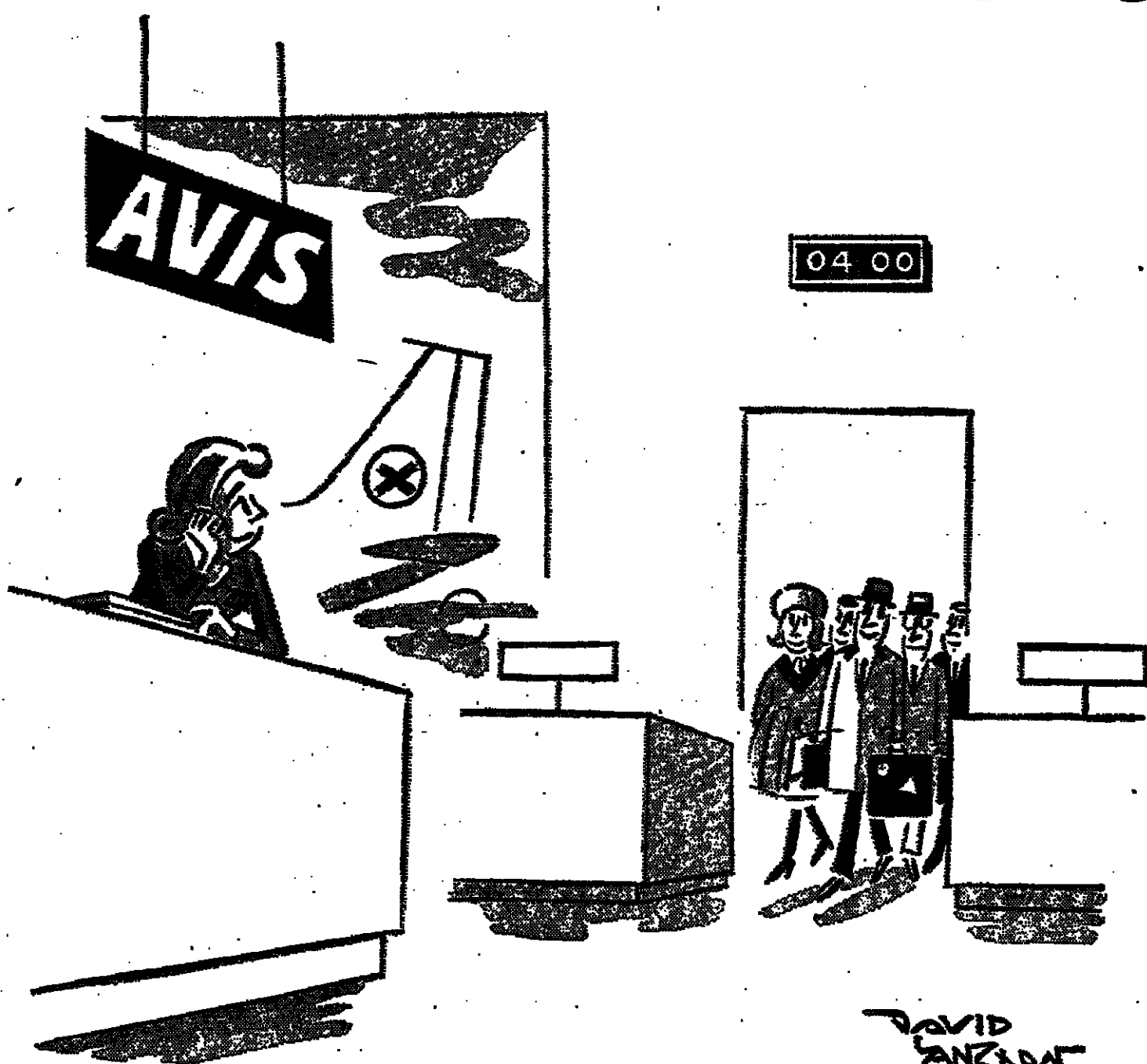
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The final results were Pakistan

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DAVID
LANZONI

WEST EUROPE

Mr Jenkins tells Europe MPs he should be invited to put EEC case at the London summit

From Philip Webster
Strasbourg, March 10.—Mr Roy Jenkins, the president of the European Commission, today stated his position in the growing dispute over representation of the Commission at the summit conference in London in May.

He told the European Parliament in Strasbourg he felt he should be invited to the summit to represent the Community, together with the president in office of the Council.

He said: "The view of the Commission is that the Community as such should be present at the economic summit

and that it should be there represented by the president in office of the Council and the president of the Commission.

"This view is fortified by the fact that any likely agenda will cover matters with a clear Community competence, such as the North-South dialogue, multilateral trade negotiations and energy, as well as general economic and monetary perspectives.

"The Commission would wish to see that, in seeking solutions to these problems, the needs and views of the Community as a whole are taken fully into account."

At a press conference here later, Mr Jenkins, the president of the Council, the Netherlands, Luxembourg, Ireland and Denmark undertook to take up the question of Community representation at the summit in their own Parliaments and to bring pressure on their own governments.

Mr Scheel, a Dutch Socialist, said that the matter should be taken up at the meeting of the European Council in Rome later this month. If it was not put on to the agenda for that meeting, the five smaller EEC countries should consider boycotting it.

Parliamentary report, page 10

£6m Nice bank raid suspect flees from court

Nice, March 10.—Albert Spaggiari, the alleged mastermind of the 50m franc (£6m) robbery in Nice, made a dramatic escape from the law courts here today and disappeared on the pillow of a waiting motorcycle.

Mr Spaggiari was taken to the law courts today for questioning. Police said he leapt through a window in the magistrate's office, shattering the pane. He landed apparently unhurt on the roof of a car, scrambled off and drove off on the pillow of a waiting motorcycle.

He made an obscene gesture to the policeman guarding the door before roaring away.

Dr Soares names date for Portugal's application

From Our Own Correspondent
Strasbourg, March 10.—Portugal intends to lodge a formal application for membership of the EEC at the end of the month, Dr Soares, the Portuguese Prime Minister, disclosed here yesterday.

In talks with Socialist members of the European Parliament, Dr Soares said he hoped the European Commission would be able to give its opinion on the Portuguese application, as required under the Treaty of Rome, by the end of the year.

If that timetable were kept, he saw no reason why the Council of Ministers should not

be ready by the spring of next year to take a decision to open entry negotiations.

Because of its considerable economic problems, Portugal would need a longer transitional phase of membership than the five years allowed Britain, Ireland and Denmark, Dr Soares said. But he thought Portugal would be in a position to accept the full obligations of membership in about 10 years' time.

Dr Soares is on the second leg of a tour of European capitals and is due to visit Brussels for talks with Mr Jenkins, the president of the Commission, and other senior officials at the end of the week.

Wage claim of Globtik Venus crew settled

By Peter Hill
The bizarre affair of the Globtik Venus, the tanker which brought the London-based shipping company, Globtik Tankers, into confrontation with the maritime unions has ended.

After long talks between union leaders and officials of the company headed by Mr Ravi Tikloo, the shipping tycoon, a settlement has been reached in the dispute over the wages of the former Filipino crew of the ship.

A two-week-old strike by the Filipino crew on board the ship at the French port of Le Havre ended abruptly last week, when a party of hired maritime mercenaries stormed the ship.

The International Transport Workers' Federation had been demanding \$242,000 (£150,000) in back pay for the dismissed crew. Last night both union leaders and the company refused to give details of the settlement, but it is believed that the company will provide lump-sum payments close to the original union claim.

Amounts paid will vary according to their rank, length of service and overtime. In return the unions have undertaken to "give all possible assistance" to the company in the operation of its fleet.

A National Union of Seamen crew will shortly leave for Le Havre to replace the non-union crew which has been on board the Globtik Venus since last weekend.

Mr Charles Blyth, the general secretary of the International Transport Workers' Federation, said that in the negotiations no one got everything they wanted but a satisfactory settlement had been agreed.

Mr Tikloo's action in engaging men to storm the Globtik Venus have been deplored by Government ministers and the Director of Public Prosecutions has been asked by Mr Sam Silkin, the Attorney General, to investigate whether there are grounds for legal action.

EEC and Russia adjourn fisheries talks

From Our Own Correspondent
Brussels, March 10.—Fisheries negotiations between the EEC and the Soviet Union, which were hailed as a diplomatic breakthrough when they began last month, were today adjourned until April 19 after it became clear that the two sides were too far apart for there to be any hope of early agreement.

Officials close to the discussions said the adjournment was designed to provide time for the negotiating partners "to reflect on their problems". The tactics to be adopted when the negotiations resume may be discussed by EEC foreign ministers when they meet in Brussels on April 5.

As it is no longer possible to reach agreement by April 1, the EEC will probably decide to extend the present interim arrangements, whereby 40 named Soviet vessels are allowed to catch limited quantities of specified species of fish in well-defined zones lying within the Community's new 200-mile limits.

Rubber bullets fired in Basque protest

San Sebastian, March 10.—Riot police fired rubber bullets today at Basque nationalist demonstrators on the eve of a Cabinet meeting that will broaden an amnesty for political prisoners.

The demonstrators were protesting here against the death of two people, alleged to be members of the Basque nationalist group ETA, who were shot by police two days ago at a roadblock near this northern summer resort.

Several hundred teenagers threw up make-shift barricades of cars and benches and stoned the police who fired tear gas and bombs that belched green and red smoke.

Police charged several times and ordered people off balconies after being showered with bricks.—Reuters.

The Pope is recovering

Rome, March 10.—The Pope is expected to resume his audience on Saturday, as he is recovering from influenza which caused the cancellation of his general audience on Wednesday.

The Vatican said he was well enough today to receive his closest advisers and follow the normal activities of church government. The Pope will be 80 in September.

Java floods

Jakarta, March 10.—Heavy flooding in West Java has left several thousand people homeless and is threatening to destroy a vital highway linking the Indonesian capital with the seaport of Cirebon.

£250,000 tax swindle

Singapore, March 10.—A 24-year-old woman income tax defaulter, who had been charged under an article of the Singapore Penal Code, designed to keep defectors and vagrants out of the largest cities.

OVERSEAS



Five hostages, one of them wounded, leave the B'nai B'rith buildings in Washington after being freed by the terrorists.

Police seek man who threatens to kill the Queen in bomb attack

Brisbane, March 10.—The police were searching tonight for a man with a foreign accent who had threatened to kill the Queen in a bomb attack at a sports complex hours before she was to arrive.

The man was also believed to be responsible for several other threats against the Queen since her arrival here yesterday. The police said they were taking them seriously.

The police received a telephone call yesterday saying that a sniper would shoot her from the roof of a department store when she arrived at the city hall. Other calls said that bombs had been placed in Government House.

The royal couple braved heavy rain in an open car today to keep a date with thousands of schoolchildren and parents at the sports complex after a search had revealed that there was no danger.

Some 25,000 young people

cheered when the Queen and the Duke of Edinburgh left their closed car for an open one to drive round the running track.

The Queen named the centre the Queen Elizabeth II Jubilee Centre and said that she was delighted that it would be the site of the 1982 Commonwealth Games.

In the morning the Duke addressed a meeting of mayors and town clerks on the problems facing modern cities.

He said that three factors seemed to be responsible for the difficulties facing big cities. They were the migration from country to town, modern transport and especially the "transport explosion" brought about by the "personal motor car", and the tendency for so many occupations to become industrialized.

"Small businesses of all kinds, shops, workshops, butchers, bakers, have all been

displaced by factories, supermarkets and department stores", he said.

Mr Ronald Allison, the Queen's press secretary, said today that, so far as he knew, the Queen had found no offence in a controversial speech by Mr Gough Whitlam, the leader of the Australian Labour opposition.

Some press reports had suggested that the Queen had said "stony-faced" through the speech on Tuesday night at Parliament House in Canberra and was affronted by it.

Mr Whitlam had said that some of the Queen's subjects wanted her to be Queen of Scots. "Elizabeth, Queen of Scots, does not sound quite right, though not as bad as Queen of Queensland. And last week it was proposed that you be Queen of the Solomon Islands. What next? Queen of Sheba?" —Reuters.

Zaire cities 'occupied' by Angolans

Kinshasa, March 10.—Three important mining and communication centres of southern Zaire are occupied by Angolan troops, the state radio—Voice of Zaire—announced today.

Few details were given about the extent of the fighting or of casualties. Zaire troops were stationed in the three border cities which the radio said "armed foreign troops" had seized three days ago. It said as first that the origin of the invading forces was not exactly known, but later said they came from Angola.

The official Zaire news agency said that the general staff of the Zaire armed forces had made a "guarantee territorial integrity and sovereignty in face of the intolerable situation created by the mercenary invasion of Zaire soil". But it added that President Mobutu, who is visiting the interior with Mr Josef Straus, the West German Opposition leader, had decided not to make any statement for the time being.

In the past few weeks, Angola has repeatedly accused Zaire of backing European mercenaries who, it said, had infiltrated its territory and carried out acts of sabotage and massacres.

The Zaire Government has decided to inform the United Nations Secretary-General of this "act of aggression committed against Zaire by mercenaries coming from Angola". The agency said.—A.P. Agence France Presse and Reuters.

Oshikango, Angola, March 10.—Angolan and South African authorities have agreed to meet at this remote border crossing next Tuesday to consider a possible exchange of letters from prisoners of the two sides.

The agreement was made at a meeting here two days ago when, flanked by armed guards, officers from the ideologically opposed countries discussed the possibility of a letter swap.

Mrs Trudeau denies romance rumour

New York, March 10.—Mrs Margaret Trudeau, wife of Mr Pierre Trudeau, the Canadian Prime Minister, went to the ball here last night and denied rumours of a romance with Mick Jagger, the Rolling Stones singer.

Asked by a reporter whether she was having an affair with Mr Jagger, Mrs Trudeau appeared startled and replied: "Heaven, no." Mr Jagger, who is also in New York, issued a statement last night in which he also dismissed the rumours of an affair.

In Ottawa, the Prime Minister's office said that "unforeseen personal circumstances" had caused Mrs Trudeau to cancel planned visit to Enfield, Nova Scotia.—Reuters and A.P.

Mrs Marcos flies to Libya in new peace initiative

Manila, March 10.—President Marcos said today he would go to great lengths to reach a peaceful settlement with the Muslim rebels of the Philippines, and voiced his fears that a bloody civil war might erupt if negotiations failed.

The President was interviewed on television by newspaper editors here after the breakdown of the Libyan-sponsored peace talks in Tripoli with the rebel Moro National Liberation Front.

The President said he had sent his wife, Imelda, on a new mission to Tripoli today for talks with Colonel Gaddafi, the Libyan leader, "to see what can be done" about reviving the talks.

"We must keep on negotiating because the alternative is too awful even to consider", he said. The alternative "is a messy type of war. There will be casualties on both sides, but worst of all, civilians will be the principal casualties."

The President voiced his concern about alleged ceasefire

violations by the rebels but said the ending of the seven-week-old ceasefire could lead to a worse situation.

He rejected, however, the suggestion of bringing the problem to the United Nations, saying that it was an internal Philippine affair.

Official estimates put at 20,000 the number of people killed in the four-year-old revolt for Muslim self-rule. The talks bogged down on the composition of a proposed Muslim autonomous region and on the degree of autonomy to be enjoyed by the region.

In the interview, the President indicated that he was standing firm on his decision to call a plebiscite in the south to find out which of the 13 provinces proposed for inclusion in the autonomous region really wanted to join it. The Moro rebels oppose such a plebiscite, but according to Mr Marcos, "there is no alternative."—Agence France Presse.

Tibetans arrested

Delhi, March 10.—About 200 Tibetan refugees were arrested here today when they tried to force their way into the Chinese embassy, police said. About 40 policemen were injured.

Guerrilla ambush

Bangkok, March 10.—Communist guerrillas ambushed a vehicle in the Thani province, southern Thailand, killing four policemen and a civilian. Government officials said today.

Dr Owen not allowed to upstage Premier

Continued from page 1

today, is most concerned with restoring Western economic recovery, which means seeing that the United States, Germany and Japan restructure their economies.

The Prime Minister noted that the world recession was now four years old and that the Free World can and will emerge from this recession but we need concerted international action if we are to do so as speedily as possible," he said.

Speaking as President of the EEC Council of Ministers, Mr Callaghan declared that all members wanted a strengthening of relationships with the United States.

So does Mr Carter, but in matters of economic stimulus he believes that the Government should spend for the next two years is enough, if domestic inflation is not to be reignited.

Mr Callaghan also said, and sounded as if he meant it, that

he was looking forward to sharing the "excitement" of Mr Carter's new Administration. Indeed, getting acquainted is one of the most important reasons for the meeting.

The same is true even more acutely for Dr Owen, the Foreign Secretary, who is the new boy here. The Washington Post today hardly noticed Mr Callaghan's arrival last night (The New York Times carried nothing) but the Post carried prominently an article based on long excerpts of Dr Owen's maiden foreign affairs speech.

Mr Callaghan is launching on Capitol Hill, and today will meet such members of the Cabinet as Mr Michael Blumenthal, the Treasury Secretary, Dr Zbigniew Brzezinski, the President's national security adviser, and Harold Brown, Secretary of Defence. There will be two banquets and Mr Callaghan will speak at a National Press Club luncheon which is to be broadcast live over many public radio stations.

Jewish activist charged in Soviet Union

Moscow, March 10.—A Jewish activist who was prevented from meeting an American diplomat outside the United States Embassy in Moscow last week, has been arrested and charged with "parasitism", Jewish sources said today.

The sources said that Mr Isosif Begun, a mathematician, had been detained last Thursday, four days after he and Professor Veniamin Fain, another activist, had tried to hand over documents on the Jewish movement to Mr Larry Napper, a Third Secretary at the United States Embassy.

The police later told Mr Begun's fiancée, Miss Alla Brugova, that he would be charged under an article of the Soviet Penal Code, designed to keep defectors and vagrants out of the largest cities.

"Parasitism", which carries a maximum sentence of two years, has been used against dissidents and Jewish activists

who have lost their jobs. Mr Begun applied for permission to emigrate to Israel in 1971 and has not been able to work as a mathematician since the following year, although he has had manual jobs.

Writing in the newspaper *Sotsialisticheskaya Industriya*, Mr G. Dadyants, a commentator, said that attacks on the treatment of dissidents in Russia were designed to poison the atmosphere before the Helsinki review conference in June and to discredit communism in Western countries.

"It is not surprising that bourgeois propaganda, striving to distract the attention of the broad masses from the grave effects of the crisis in the West, tries to divert the public's gaze to Sakharov or Bukharin."

"It is unfortunate that some of the leftists in the West have swallowed the anti-Soviet bait from the bourgeoisie, in an attempt to prove their respect

for capitalism." Western criticism of Soviet policies was open interference in the Soviet Union's internal affairs and violated the 1975 Helsinki accords.—Reuters.

Prague, March 10.—Vaclav Havel, the dissident Czechoslovak playwright, was accused of receiving money from American and West German intelligence agencies in articles appearing in the Prague press today.

Mr Havel, one of the three spokesmen for the Charter 77 human rights protest group, has been held in Ruzyně prison on the outskirts of Prague since January with two other prominent signatories of Charter 77, Mr Jiri Lederer, a former journalist, and Mr Frantisek Pavlicek, a theatre director.

Mr Havel was also accused of being in contact with Mr Pavel Tigrid, identified in the articles as a known agent of the American Central Intelligence

Agency, and other Czechoslovak émigrés "working for the most part with Western espionage services."

Mr Tigrid, a leading critic and publisher, left Czechoslovakia after the communist takeover in 1948.

The press articles were the first direct accusations against Mr Havel since his arrest although spokesmen has on several occasions told Western journalists that he was arrested for espionage and that the Charter 77 protest was not involved. His family has not been told the charges against him.

The articles cited among others Mr Tomas Rezac, a former émigré who returned to Czechoslovakia. He was quoted as saying that he had been told by a West German intelligence agent in 1971 that "Czechoslovakia's illegal culture will be sustained through third persons and institutions."—Agence France Presse.

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	GF012	1000		1930	2225		
THURS	GF018	2045				0735	0925
	GF016	1000	1920				2255
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مكازم السفر

OVERSEAS

UN bans 'looting' from its Cyprus vocabulary after Turkish assurance on seizure of property

From Robert Fisk, Nicosia

United Nations troops in Cyprus have been ordered by their commanding officer to stop using the word "looting" when reporting the seizure of private property by Turkish and Greek authorities in the island.

The official instruction, contained in confidential United Nations documents, which have come into the hands of *The Times*, has caused considerable disquiet among United Nations soldiers on peacekeeping duties near the Turkish-held port of Famagusta.

The deputy commanding officer of the Austrian civilian police unit in the south of the island—where Turkish troops have for more than a year been observed taking thousands of pounds worth of Greek-Cypriot property from houses in looted—questioned the order at a high-level military meeting, only to be told that the instruction had been made by General James Quinn, the Irish commander of the United Nations force in Cyprus.

The ban, which was imposed just over a month ago, follows the disclosure in *The Times* that United Nations troops in the Varosha district of Famagusta had on dozens of occasions in 1975 and 1976 reported looting by Turkish soldiers in the city.

The dispatch published in *The Times* was based on restricted United Nations reports in which Swedish officers spoke of the removal of furniture, house fittings, cars and motor cycles and even speedboats by Turkish soldiers in the city.

When the original United Nations report was disclosed—repeatedly referring to the seizure of property in Varosha as "looting"—Greek Cypriots claimed that they provided complete proof that Turkish-Cypriots were engaged in large-scale theft and appropriation of property and houses in northern Cyprus.

One Cyprus Government official asked why the United Nations Secretary-General's report "looting" referred to the activities of the Turks in such strong terms when his soldiers in Cyprus felt the words were warranted. Mr Rauf Denktaş, the Turkish-Cypriot leader, had taken place although he agreed that large amounts of property had been taken from Greek homes for "storage".

Major William Norman, the United Nations military public information officer here—a British officer in the Green Howards who was present at the chief of staff's meeting in January—said in a statement tonight: "You will know of course that the word 'looting' has not been used in the Secretary-General's reports and the word only gained currency through *The Times* article just before Christmas. We have therefore had to become more precise over our internal terminology which is why we do not use it any more."

"We also do not use it any more in the light of the assurance we have from Mr Denktaş that the property is only being confiscated and is being accounted for."

At the chief of staff's meeting, Major Norman raised the question of unofficial discussions with the press. According to the minutes of the meeting, contained in a document coded "Annex A to Ops 902" and marked "restricted", he reminded senior commanders that he should be informed when members of the press attempt to interview their personnel without first having been cleared by UNFICYP (United Nations Force in Cyprus).

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Mr Richard Nixon, the former American President (right), discussing with Mr David Frost, the television interviewer, final arrangements for four 90-minute interviews at his San Clemente home in California.

Gang of Four's own Watergate exposed

Hongkong, March 9.—Peking has exposed its own "Watergate case" involving the cover-up of counter-revolutionary activities of the Gang of Four led by Chairman Mao's widow, Chiang Ching, according to the New China news agency today.

It said Mr Chang Chun-chiao, a former vice-premier and a member of the gang, had tried frantically to cover up some 90

articles written by himself in the 1930s attacking the Chinese Communist Party and Lu Hsun, the leading revolutionary writer.

The articles sang the praises of imperialism and the late General Chiang Kai-shek, the Nationalist leader, according to a report from Shanghai, where the articles were stored.

Quoting librarians there the report said that photographs

had also been found of Chiang Ching at a birthday celebration for Chiang Kai-shek and articles in which she "glorified the reactionary Kuomintang (the Nationalist Party)".

According to the news agency, librarians in Shanghai recently revealed how they were persecuted by Mr Chang Chun-chiao, Chiang Ching and their gang in an effort to cover up their past.

America's biological war against itself

From Harold Schmeck, Washington, March 10

Army biological warfare experts on the spread of bacteria over part of the Pennsylvania toll road, dumped germs in the ocean off San Francisco in a simulated attack and conducted similar open air tests of simulated germ warfare in many other cities and regions, according to an Army report to a Senate sub-committee made public this week.

The report said 239 open-air tests of biological warfare agents were conducted between the Second World War and the cessation of chemical and biological warfare programmes in 1969.

In all cases the material let loose on American sea or soil was presumed to be totally harmless. In some instances the agent was an inert chemical; in others it was bacteria, presumed then to be harmless. The reports indicated that the harmlessness of some of the germs has since been questioned.

The test included the mock biological warfare attack in the New York underground railway that received much publicity in 1975 and the loosing of presumably harmless biological weapons at the national airport and the Greyhound Bus station in Washington. The purpose of the tests, the report said, was to assess the vulnerability of the United States to chemical and biological warfare.

The testing programme consisted of two phases: phase one involved the use of presumably harmless simulants of biological warfare weapons; the second consisted of the testing, in volunteers, of germs believed to be capable of causing disease.

The report was made public at a hearing of the sub-committee on health and scientific resources of the Senate committee on human resources.

At the time the simulated germ warfare bacteria were used, they were assumed to be safe, Army witnesses said. The San Francisco tests, conducted in 1950, involved the use of bacteria called *serratia marcescens*. The bacteria were dumped in the ocean, the evidence indicated.

The report said that this bacteria had been used widely since the early days of bacteriology to study the dissemination of bacteria in the air. In recent years, however, doubts as to its complete safety had arisen.

Brigadier-General William Augerson, Army Assistant Surgeon General, told the senators that it was not until the end of the 1960s that conclusive evidence was developed indicating that the bacteria could be harmful to humans. He and Mr Edward Miller, Assistant Secretary of the Army for research and development, said the purpose of losing the bacteria in populated areas was not to study the effects of the germs on humans. It was to assess the spread and the survival of the bacteria.

Some of the tests, notably the losing of simulated biological poison in the New York Underground, had become public knowledge and had been discussed widely; the full range of locations and the total number of tests of this kind appear to be new.—New York Times News Service.

Birth control 'without compulsion' for India

From Richard Wigg, Bombay

A municipal family planning booth where voluntary operations were carried out was burnt down by an irate crowd in a Bombay suburb the other day after it was learnt that a youth of 16 had been persuaded to get himself sterilized for a reward of 100 rupees (\$5.50).

The municipality denied after wards that he had in fact been sterilized, but the police were unable to find the "motivator", a kind of social worker, who had brought the youth in and under the scheme allegedly earned himself 25 rupees.

India, whose family planning programme is the largest in the world, carried out 7.7 million sterilization operations in a nine-month-long campaign last year. The figure compares with the total of 20 million sterilizations since such operations began.

But the crowd's action in setting fire to the booth shows that popular feelings are easily aroused over the idea of sterilization abuses which, together with errors committed in last year's crash programme, are being attacked by the opposition parties in the election campaign.

Mr Sanjay Gandhi, the Prime Minister's younger son, who was the chief advocate of strong measures to limit families to two or three children, is now almost daily emphasizing that the Government believes in family planning "without compulsion".

The crash programme began when Dr Karan Singh, Minister of Health and Family Planning, announced last April a population policy to combat a population of more than 600 million and, as he put it, "now rising at the rate of 11 million a month".

The annual increase in births was equivalent to the entire population of Australia and to wait for economic development and education to bring a drop in human fertility was "not a practical solution", he argued.

Public opinion was ready for stronger measures, he said, but since many parts of the country were not equipped with the medical infrastructure to cope with nationwide compulsory sterilization, the states were left to make the initiative.

Madhya Pradesh, the state in which Bombay lies, promptly passed a Bill compelling sterilization after registration of the third child, with up to two years' jail for those defying the law.

Other states, including Delhi itself, preferred to adopt administrative measures but

things quickly began to go wrong. Powerful "disincentives" were instituted: daily-paid government employees were not engaged unless they could produce vasectomy certificates; state loans to help those who wanted to build themselves a home were only granted after sterilization and school teachers were even recruited as "motivators" and required to produce a quota of five cases under penalty of setting back their own careers.

In the villages the promise of a free transistor or a 100 rupees incentive degenerated into intimidation campaigns. When the car of the family planning officials appeared in remote areas the younger population often simply fled.

Last autumn things reached crisis proportions in Northern India after serious incidents when the police rounded up inhabitants forcibly and were attacked. Things were worse in Uttar Pradesh state where on two days in October 40 people died as police fought rioting crowds at Muzaffarnagar, who were resisting an order to comply with the sterilization drive.

The tragedy, unreported by newspapers at the time because of strict censorship under the emergency regulations, proved a turning point, however, and the Maharashtra Bill never received presidential approval in Delhi. It has now been withdrawn and so, under mounting election campaign criticism, have various administrative disincentive measures elsewhere.

When I put it to Mrs Avabai Wadia, president of the Family Planning Association of India, a non-government body with headquarters in Bombay, that the crash programme might have set back birth control, she replied: "In our view compulsion is not effective. We believe in voluntary family planning. In incentives which you might call indirect pressure which still leave each family a choice, even a barren choice."

Sterilization had come to the fore in India because of the long fertile periods of couples due to early marriages, explained Mrs Wadia, a Lincoln Inn-trained barrister. The authorities' commitment had brought a "tremendous step forward" through the number of sterilizations achieved last year. The stark problem remains of finding means enough in a poor country other than compulsion to persuade 100 million women of child-bearing age and their husbands to accept voluntary family planning.

An indefinite hunger strike today in protest over the Government's refusal to release him from prison to campaign in his constituency.

In Patna, the capital of Bihar state, political analysts said the opposition was running well ahead of the ruling Congress Party in the state. Bihar is one of two key states that could tilt the balance in the general election.

Bihar, in the north-east, has 54 Lok Sabha (Lower House) seats at stake and together with neighbouring Uttar Pradesh (85 seats) will supply more than a quarter of the 542 Lower House members.

The Congress Party won 39 seats here in the 1971 general election when it gained 352 out of 524 Lok Sabha seats.

Independent analysts say there is a definite wave of support for the opposition in most parts of the state of about 60 million people.

The state of emergency that Mrs Gandhi imposed in June, 1975, had a particularly emotional effect on many Biharis—Agence France Press, AP and Reuters. Mrs Gandhi, page 14

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PARLIAMENT, March 7-10, 1977

Reasons for changes in Post Office policy on ordering

House of Commons

There was unemployment in the Post Office in 1976, Mr. Plessey said. The Post Office was not a demand-led, not only because of the recession but also as a consequence of massive subsidies being paid from taxpayers' money to the Post Office. The Post Office was not a demand-led, not only because of the recession but also as a consequence of massive subsidies being paid from taxpayers' money to the Post Office.

He said they could not afford to have Plessey's add to the number of empty factories. The Plessey factory was largely dependent on the Post Office which produced two-thirds of the orders taken by the industry. Nobody could deny there had been an erratic and irresponsible ordering policy from the Post Office, over the last few years.

The special inquiry referred to by the Prime Minister last week had terms of reference which were too wide to deal with the issues at stake.

Mr. John Gillingham, Under Secretary for Employment (Newcastle), said the Post Office had increased from 1956 to 1975 by 1975 to 1975 in this year.

The Post Office has only cut investment (he said) to respond to the need for equipment. There has been no Government imposed cut and the Post Office has only reduced telecommunications investment when demand has been lacking for equipment.

There had been problems in the past because of the failure by some British firms to deliver on time. The present problems, he said, were the result of the inability to supply outdated equipment abroad and, secondly, from the decision to develop a modern semi-electronic system in place of the outdated electro-mechanical systems, a development from which Plessey

withdrew at an early stage, before it achieved ultimate success. The problems stemmed also from reduction in orders when demand fell, not only because of the recession but also as a consequence of massive subsidies being paid from taxpayers' money to the Post Office.

There had been an ironing out of telephone traffic over the day by varying charges. This had also reduced the amount of new equipment needed since it avoided a situation in which a lot of expensive equipment was required to meet a rush hour demand for as little as an hour or two hours a day.

The latest ordering cuts were the result of computer studies which had given the Post Office a measure of traffic flows and enabled them to measure these more accurately, and to match capacity exchange by exchange. The studies had shown a large measure of spare capacity.

The problem (he said) was that the Post Office wanted to modernize the system and that is essential if they are to provide the quality of service people want. Post Office users cannot expect to receive good service from out-of-date equipment.

A loss of export orders had flowed from continuing to produce outdated equipment. This was basically from the failure to achieve a joint venture between the Post Office and the manufacturer in the 1950s when they tried to go directly from a simple Strowger electrical-mechanical system to an advanced electronic system. The joint venture had failed and that had left Britain without exportable exchange equipment.

I do not think we have any hope

in the export market (he said) until we produce a modern British telecommunications system.

Post Office estimates could be wrong which was why the Prime Minister had called for the inquiry which was taking place, but Plessey workers should plan no hopes to that.

Plessey had made plans that even restoration of the orders would have no effect for 12 months.

If Post Office figures were correct, it could reduce the telephone installation charge to encourage more people to have telephones and the Department of Industry would encourage them to consider that once again.

Many outside the Post Office believed the Post Office could also conduct more vigorous marketing campaigns. The Government was prepared to back such initiatives. Sadly, these measures could not solve the problem within the 90 days which Plessey had to give under the Employment Protection Act.

The Plessey proposals could not be dealt with by way of a job initiative because of the time factor. But joint teams from the Employment Services Agency and Training Services Agency would go into Plessey factories to discuss what help could be given.

The Manpower Services Commission would do all it could within the limits of what was allowed to do so. In the localities, particularly in the north, the Government would try to do what was a desperate situation.

The Government had drawn the Plessey's attention to the fact that any employment subsidy which could give 12 months' grace, but so far the company had said they were not interested in the subsidy.

Publication of evidence on vaccine requested

Mr David Ennals, Secretary of State for Social Services, announced that in view of the interest shown in the Commons and the joint Committee on Vaccination and Immunization to prepare for publication a review of the evidence about whooping cough vaccine and to set out in full the basis of their advice to him.

Mr Ennals (Warrington, North, Lab.) said the Government was prepared to publish a review of the evidence about whooping cough vaccine and to set out in full the basis of their advice to him.

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Errors of judgment led to man's escape from Leicester Prison

The report of the inquiry into the escape of William Thomas Hughes from Leicester Prison, which was held as a result of the escape of William Thomas Hughes and the murder of four members of a family, contains 17 recommendations all of which are to be implemented immediately.

This was stated by Mr. Merlyn Rees, Home Secretary, in a statement on the report of the inquiry carried out by the Chief Inspector of the Prison Service. The report also says that there are eight other matters which are recommended for further review.

Mr. Rees said the report described the information available to the prison staff both within the prison and from the community. It also says that there are eight other matters which are recommended for further review.

It concludes (he went on) that the information was not as good as it should have been. It also says that there are eight other matters which are recommended for further review.

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But as the report points out, apart from financial and staffing implications a number of them would have serious consequences both for the treatment of prisoners, many of them unconvicted, and for the relationships between staff and prisoners.

I have examined whether anything in this report calls for the initiation of disciplinary proceedings. It suggests that there were errors of judgment but does not in my view disclose grounds for considering disciplinary action: these were failures of the system rather than of particular individuals.

I now turn to the police operations following Hughes' escape, on which I have received a report from the Chief Constable of Derbyshire.

Hughes' escape on January 12 was notified to the police very quickly, and the fact that he made his escape so soon was found to be a matter of some concern.

The police had, however, a number of reasons for believing that he would make for Lancashire. The search was therefore most intensive in that direction; in other directions—including the direction in which he had been taken, or indeed whether he had picked up another car or was on foot.

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were not searched or visited, but then to all outward appearances the cottages were occupied by their usual residents and life was continuing normally. It was not until the morning of January 14 that Hughes' presence there was reported by Mrs Moran through a neighbour. Then came the chase which ended in Hughes' death.

The deaths of Mrs Moran's parents, husband and daughter and Hughes are still the subject of the coroners' inquiry, and I should not therefore comment on those aspects of the matter further.

It has been my intention from the outset to secure the House as an account as possible of the facts about how this tragic case came to happen. Publication of the report by the Chief Inspector of the Prison Service gives effect to this intention, but also, by the thoroughness of its analysis and the width of its recommendations, provides a number of lessons for the Prison Service.

The necessary instructions to give effect to the immediate recommendations are being issued at once.

Mr William Whitelaw, Opposition spokesman on home affairs (Pentrich and the Border, C)—We welcome his intention to implement the recommendations for immediate action. While many of us would appreciate the need for strip searches, I think it would be a mistake to have to accept that these would have far-reaching implications in the prison service.

Mr Whitelaw said that he would like to see a higher degree of vigilance in the prison service, but that it would be a mistake to have to accept that these would have far-reaching implications in the prison service.

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Commission statement on sales of butter

European Parliament

Strasbourg. Surplus dairy production had to be reduced, Mr. Finn Olav Gmelch, Commissioner for Agriculture, said in a statement on the sale of dairy products from the Community to eastern Europe. The budgetary costs involved in the disposal of surpluses were not reduced, costs would increase to a level where they became politically unbearable.

He said the Community had already been exposed to severe criticism which in many ways was justified. It was not because of bad management of financial resources but because surplus production was too costly.

Measures must be taken to restore balance in milk production (he said) because otherwise stocks will continue to pile up and the Community will not be able to meet its agricultural policy which has broken up and the kind of problems with which we are confronted will not only be perpetuated but aggravated.

The Community was traditionally a substantial exporter of butter and must continue to be so at least for as long as there was a surplus in that sector, and exports were possible only with the help of refunds to cover the difference between domestic and world market prices. Refunds were an integral part of the established market organization. No one was questioning seriously this principle or that part of the Community's policy.

On exports there were two methods, the general refund for all destinations and the special refund under a tendering procedure used by some buying countries.

When the general refund was increased, the general refund was merely a technical adjustment of the method in which the refund was being used. It was not a change in policy. There was no question of any special refund under a tendering procedure used by some buying countries.

Conditions had simply been fixed in a manner which allowed the Community to export its surplus butter at a price which was not too high. The difference between the internal guaranteed price and the world market price and not with particular reference to the expected sales in the Community.

No such deal has at any moment (he said) ever been in our hands. The three day monitoring system since introduced was temporary pending a review of the Community's export policies and decisions to be taken by Parliament on a whole set of measures which would be restoring balance in the milk market.

I issue a strong warning (he continued) against any illusions which might exist as to whether it was possible to correct a costly and policy for agricultural products based on sales to eastern European countries, particularly the Soviet Union. But that was not the point. We will not appropriate not avail ourselves of such possibilities.

There had been rumours that substantial larger quantities than they had envisaged were to be exported to the Soviet Union. I felt together with my colleagues (he said) that we had to do something to get out of our hands. The introduction of the monitoring system was not objected to by the member states.

Lord Bruce of Donington (UK, Lab) said that he was glad to hear that the Council of Ministers would come clean and tell Parliament what it proposed to do to get rid of structural surpluses.

Mr James Scott-Hopkins (West Derbyshire, C) said that what the Commission had done was politically inept. At one time they had been trying to lower the price and at the same time trying to stop them.

Trade with Japan. The European Community must deal with the sort of problems caused by the trade deficit with Japan, Herr Wilhelm Haferkamp, Vice-President of the Commission, said.

He was speaking during a debate after which the Council of Ministers was expected to meet. The Commission's external relations committee, which expressed deep concern at the growth of the trade deficit with Japan and called for a reduction in the volume of exports to the Community, was carried over.

New President. Sig. Emilio Colombo, a Christian Democrat and former Italian Prime Minister, was on Tuesday elected President of the Council of Ministers. In the third ballot he beat Michael Yeats (Ireland, Fianna Fail) by 85 votes to 77.

New motoring offence. Lord Donaldson of Kingsbridge, Minister of State, Education and Science, moved a new clause in the Criminal Law Bill to amend the Road Traffic Act, 1972, to change the offence of causing death by dangerous driving to that of causing death by reckless driving.

The Lord of Mansfield, for the Opposition, said the new clause would cause more rejoicing and satisfaction to lawyers than anything else in the Bill.

The new clause was agreed.

Rejection of Bill to abolish the City

The City of London had the reek of the rotten boroughs, the smell of patronage, Mr. Bryan Davies (Enfield, North, Lab.) said when seeking leave to introduce the Corporation of the City of London (Abolition) Bill. Leave was refused, however, by 198 votes to 157—majority against 41.

He said that the City was a bastion of privilege which had made no concession to democracy. Out of the seven million people who lived in the City of London, only 5,000 were residents.

Two-thirds of the residential voters returned one-third of the councillors; one-third was elected by only 150 residents and in three wards the councillors outnumbered the electors.

He wanted the resources of the City divided up among the poor surrounding boroughs. The City was an island of wealth in a sea of poverty.

Mr. Geoffrey Finsberg (Camden, Hampstead, C) said he was a free man of the City. The proposal was spiteful and politically motivated. It would substitute a politically biased chief of London for an internationally respected Lord Mayor who was above partisan politics. (Labour laughter.)

The proposal would squander the wealth of the City instead of the present system whereby the City paid a vast sum to the rest of London and paid the rest of London for the building of structures such as the new London Bridge. It would give Tammany Hall rule to the City.

Mr. Davies's argument was based upon a phoney, fraudulent and loaded London Labour Party report. The facts were entirely different.

The City had been a bastion of liberty in British history. It was highly efficient in its organization and the financial world placed confidence in its non-political stance. (Renewed Labour laughter.)

Correction. Sir Derek Walker-Smith (East Hertfordshire, C) stated in last week's foreign affairs debate that the failures to implement the provisions of the Helsinki Agreement for human rights gave rise to the suspicion that the Soviet were interested only (rather than "not" as reported) in the provisions relating to the inviolability of frontiers, and that human rights being a sort of quid pro quo, the Soviet were now trying to have the quid and withhold the quo.


Mr. Gordon Bagier (Sunderland, South, Lab.) said that representations the Secretary of State for Transport had received from the Civic Trust on EEC proposals to increase maximum lorry weights. Mr. William Rodgers—Mr. Bagier said that the Civic Trust on January 26, had discussed the environmental problems of lorries generally and the current EEC proposals on weights and dimensions in particular.

Mr. Bagier—The environmental and social consequences of increasing lorry loads to 40 tons would be serious. If these weights came into this country, the advantage would be to the heavy haulage would be even further

Pakistan still hope to win series

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THE ARTS

Picaresque adventures of a movie outfit

Nickelodeon (u)
ABC Shaftesbury
Avenue

Inserts (x)
Prince Charles

Mean Streets (x)
Screen on the Green

Homebodies (x)
Essential Cinema

Jackson County
Gael (x)
London Pavilion

Rafferty and
the Gold Dust Twins (x)
Warner West End 4

The Battle of Chile
Other Cinema



Burt Reynolds prepares for action in Nickelodeon

Once it was axiomatic that Hollywood recognized no yesterday. Now, in the great nostalgia boom, it has plunged into its own past. Hard behind *The Last Tango*, which was about the imperial era of the studios in the 1930s, comes Peter Bogdanovich's *Nickelodeon*, which deals with the swashbuckling years before the great *Fast Times*. War, a *Zerkow*, a *Madhouse*, a *Lacminal*, or a *Loew*—who could rent an old store, a projector and a couple of reels of film or hire a projector and an out-of-work actor or two—had a very fair chance of becoming a millionaire before the year was out.

Bogdanovich has chosen a particularly dramatic episode of history—the great *Fast Times*, War, in which the most famous established companies of 1909 grouped around Edison, pooling their patents to form a trust to keep out independents. The war was often bloody: destruction of cameras, studios and negatives was commonplace. It could make a lively subject, but only if it is not done as a history lesson. Bogdanovich does Bogdanovich seem to recall with a start that this is the dramatic foundation of his comedy. More often the scenario saunters aimlessly from incident to incident, following the picaresque adventures of a movie outfit on West, near the rural exterior of Hollywood, where the independents fled to evade the trust's strong-arm men.

The film is best when Bogdanovich (originally a historian and critic in his own right) remembers his history, and shows you that the vagabonds are drifting with its stream: the coming of feature-length pictures and picture palaces, the growth of the studios and the rise of the industrialist impresario. The climax is the premiere of *Birth of a Nation*, and Bogdanovich succeeds at least in conveying something of the

excitement and revolution of the event, following it with a touching dying fall in his comical-lyrical end.

More often, though, he is led astray by a misguided taste for slapstick at which he is not very skilful, so that you get the feeling only that an epidemic of some falling sickness has spread through his unlucky cast. Given the chance, Ryan O'Neal and Burt Reynolds and his partners, Jane Fonda and Sherry Stoner, handle lights comedy with charm. Brian Keith is a prototypical buccaneer impresario, and a lowering Tatum O'Neal is a child prodigy scenarist from the mould of Anita Loos.

Inserts turns the clock on to the end of the Twenties. Creheim is finished: junkie Wallace Reid a tragic memory; and there's a new kid at Pathe called Josef von Sternberg, with Richard Dreyfuss looking startlingly like the young Viennese director and exerting a Svergal hypnosis power over his actresses much like that von Sternberg is supposed to have exerted over the young Dietrich.

There, unless the history books have been holding out on us, the similarity ends, because *Wonder Boy* is making dirty movies for stag parties, with a has-been, drug-flick actress and a screen-struck mortuary worker as his skin stars. Drunk and defeated as he is, all a wonder *Wonder Boy's* responses are numbered, and it takes a series of shocks and the sexual challenges, provided by the guileful but ingenuous mistress of his financier, to startle him out of creative and physical impotence.

John Byrum, who wrote and directed the film (apparently

on a tiny budget, and in Britain) has been responsible for two of the more awful screenplays of recent years, *Mohogany* and *Harley and Walter Go to New York*; and here too he's encumbered himself with a lot too many words. They don't altogether obscure a clean underlying dramatic line, a good deal of wit, and the ingenuity with which the gestures and language of pornography are used as the means of psychological revelation. The five-person ensemble—as well as Dreyfuss, Veronica Cartwright and Stephen Davies as the "meat" and Bob Hoskins as the moonbeams and his mistress—play impeccably in their single set, a go-on-off art deco studio.

There is a welcome revival of Martin Scorsese's 1973 *Mean Streets*. It improves with time; and in any case it is fascinating to see it, with hindsight, as the work of the future director of *Alice Doesn't Live Here Anymore* and *Taxi Driver*. Along with *Who's That Knocking at My Door*, it is still the purest of his films, a fascinated, exasperated, affectionate recollection of his youth in Little Italy. Scorsese shows us the belowstairs of *The Godfather*, the dumb and hectic life of the young funks who hope they're going to get to be somebodies, and not merely grow into old punks.

Charlie (Harvey Keitel), the hero, probably will make it, because he has an uncle who is a big wheel in the Mafia, and who tries to warn Charlie against his undesirable associations with Johnny Boy, a crazy, death-bent gambler (a *tour de force* performance by Robert De Niro), and Johnny Boy's epileptic cousin Teresa (Amy Robinson), with whom Charlie is having a somewhat off-handed

affair. Charlie's desperate impulse to protect and help them is inspired, you feel, by a religious sense of guilt. Plaster madonnas, crucifixes and the Pope all play an equal part in the chaotic lives of these delinquent hopefuls, with lurid bars, Verdi, dead-head girls, petty thefts, mindless gambling, flesh clothes. Unromantic, unselfish, with a feeling for the nerve as well as the hopelessness. Scorsese invests his tales of mean streets, low places and foolish, emotional people with an operatic intensity.

The Essential Cinema maintains its reputation for picking up small treasures overlooked by the big distributors. *Homebodies*, directed by Larry Yust, is Cincinnati's answer to *Lincoln*, and appropriately more violent than that other tale of geriatric delinquents. A group of senior citizens are threatened with eviction from their crumbling brownstone; but fight back gamely—sabotaging the building site that is to oust them, picking a broad knife clean through the officious little woman from the City's rehousing department, and enacting the magnate developer in his own cement.

It is a fierce and funny little Grand Guignol offering, even if it sometimes goes on at self-indulgent length; and it is in its weird way a blow for the dignity of the aged. The leader of the group is an elfin, pun-gobbling 75-year-old called Paula Trueman; the stage veteran Frances Fuller is their baby Jane; and familiar character players like Ruth McDermott, Ian Wolfe and Peter Brocco rise to the chance to star.

Jackson County Gael is a production of Roger Corman's New World Company, and has all the hallmarks: a zippy new director (Michael Miller), a

neat screenplay, a modest budget intelligently deployed, using location shooting and new-fa players; and a story of catchpenny violence and a very contemporary fatalism.

Yvette Mimieux is a brisk advertising executive in flight from a broken marriage, who decides to drive cross country from coast (West) to coast (East). Her car is hijacked by a thug couple, and she is run in as a vagrant in a backwoods community. Overnight she is raped by a police officer, whom she kills, before making her escape with a fellow prisoner, a desperate man on a murder charge. Their flight ends when they are both shot up in the middle of a small-town Bismuthian parade. The irony of the last scene is intentional; but the object is, one feels, rather vicariously enjoyment of violent America than any very clear criticism of it.

A couple of years old now, *Rafferty and the Gold Dust Twins*, directed by Dick Richards, is a now standard pro-

cess and a cheeky, with three unlikely companions on an odyssey of chance encounters en route to destiny. Alan Arkin is a boozey loser who for no clear reason is abducted by Mac (Sally Kellerman), a folk singer, and Fribbe (Mackenzie Phillips), a delinquent runaway orphan. Rafferty escapes, thinks better of it, and rejoins the girls for the obligatory round of picturesque landscapes, grubby motels, petrol stations, and a few more actors, and comic-sentimental end.

Last, and certainly not least in this chronicle of Americana, *Patrizio Guzman's The Battle of Chile* (Parts 1 and 2; the third is still in preparation in Cuba) is an essential viewing. It is a vast, carefully, but scrupulously documented, sober record of events between the rightist-inspired transport strikes of October, 1972, and the military assault on the Presidential palace and the killing of Allende's ministers late in the cinema's equivalent to John Reed's *Ten Days That Shook the World*.

Guzman's six-camera team had eyes and ears everywhere in the months leading to the coup. Few historical events have been so comprehensively documented with a wide extraordinary foresight, and infallible instinct. Guzman's cameramen always managed to pick out the face in the crowd of a state occasion which would later emerge as a featured player in the tragedy that was to come.

When the Chilean people took the Allende regime's brave but inevitably doomed challenge to American industrial interests.

The first part closes and the second part opens with one of the most remarkable pieces of actuality film ever shot: the Argentine cameraman Leonardo Hendrikson's record of his own death. His camera focuses on the military riot-breakers. One of the soldiers raises his rifle and aims, yet Hendrikson's camera stays steady to the very moment of the impact when, still clutched in his hands, he shares his death convulsions.

David Robinson

Elinor Glyn goes to Venice

Romance
Thames

Michael Ratcliffe

The series credits tell all, for where else would you see two bubbles float towards each other, touch and, instead of bursting, merge? If you believe that you are ready for *Romance*, I do, and am, and having found last week's production of *Quidde's Moths*, home-grown and different to the point of embarrassment—whatever made them think they could get away with such a tranquillized twentieth-century heroine, not to mention all those preposterous accents and peculiar wigs?—I was delighted and relieved to see the series leap into life with *Elinor Glyn's Three Weeks*. It was terrific. Better, indeed, at just under one hour, than the book.

True, real Venetian exteriors were absent, but the studio backdrop was more than a whit of Windermere about Lake Lucerne, and the view of the Rigi through the hotel window looked like a restaurant wall; and, true, Elizabeth Shepherd assumed a preposterous accent as the mysterious young Englishman and fastens him up on *Life, Love and Duty*, thus making, in Mrs

Glyn's portentously simple phrase, "the illumination of a brief space". But even artificiality demands conviction, and that was the real difference between this week and last.

Most of the action took place indoors, so that designer director and lighting cameraman were in firm control through-out. Allan Cameron used hot colours the way Mrs Glyn used her adjectives (at one point we had blue sky, purple smoking jacket, yellow gown and red chairs all glowing away on the little screen together), and Elizabeth Hussey imposed a unity of style on the two chief players by using filters and soft focus with tact; when apt lighting suffused the scene in pale umbers and stormy pinks, "I am so glad you are seeing Venice with me", murmured the princess as they dined in a rumble of grapes and yellow roses while a string band and a boy soprano rendered intimate conversation hazardous, but exciting, in the background.

As for Miss Shepherd's accent, she sustained it with great skill and had mosen her model with care. Ticking her Ruritanian syllables to the back of the throat where she appeared to gargle them in crystallized sugar, she brilliantly impersonated Garbo in *Queen Christina* and *Comedie*. It may not have been the best acting, but, like Simon MacCorkindale's solid pedigree Paul, it worked.

Visitors to the National Theatre

Illuminatus!
Cottesloe

Irving Wardle

By the time I parted company with the Science Fiction Theatre of Liverpool, a rock group called the American Medical Association had just reactivated a sunken Nazi army from the bottom of a Bavarian lake, and Leviathan had been tracked down by a yellow submarine equipped with a computer posing as John Gielgud.

The show by then had been playing for nine hours and was still going strong. Lifted from a spare-time epic by two *Playboy* journalists (Robert Shea and Robert Anton Wilson), *Illuminatus!* is a vast, carefully, but scrupulously documented, sober record of events between the rightist-inspired transport strikes of October, 1972, and the military assault on the Presidential palace and the killing of Allende's ministers late in the cinema's equivalent to John Reed's *Ten Days That Shook the World*.

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David Robinson

Summerfolk
Lyttelton

Irving Wardle

Sommergäste nach Gorky it says frankly on the cover of the text accompanying this widely toured production by Peter Stein's Schaubühne am Halleschen Ufer.

Gorky's own picture of the pre-revolutionary St Petersburg bourgeoisie idly summing up their country dachas and haunted by a sense of their useless lives was not lost on those who saw the 1974 RSC production. But it was evidently Stein's view, and the joy of that is if you're prepared to work at it you can be married to almost anybody.

This is not intended as a reflection on Miss Aitken's second husband, Nigel Davenport, whom she has been happily married for five years and by whom she has a four-year-old son called Jack.

We met on *Mary Queen of Scots* in which I had the sort of part you miss when you drop from the picture, down the back of the cinema seat: anyway I knew at once in an awful sort of way that I was going to marry him and then I did. I've inherited two splendid grown-up spectacles of his, and the simple dramatic effectiveness of his acting is a good marriage is that you don't have to go and act all the time. I was out for quite a while before *Travesties*, which was the first London play I did (apart from a brief Hampstead run) and I think I only got that because David Jones kept thinking I could act despite all appearances to the contrary.

I'd given a series of horrendous auditions at Stratford, where they kept calling me back because they couldn't believe how bad I was, and then I had a terrible time in rehearsal for *Travesties* until Billy Chappell, who was doing the dance routines, taught me to have the courage of my eccentricity and not to try to be like anyone else. It's not my fault there are too many vortebrae in my neck and that I waver around on the stage out of fear. When I was doing *A Little Night Music* people used to come backstage and say how interesting it was that I'd been given choreography quite different from everyone else on the stage. Actually I hadn't: it just sort of looked different when I did it. It's terror that makes you funny on the stage: the critic from *Dancing Queen* said you couldn't teach a professional dancer in a whole year to dance the way I danced: I'm totally dis-jointed.

Sheridan Morley

Maria Aitken tells her tall story

Once in a decade, given average luck, the English theatre finds itself a classy comedy comedienne with whom to fall in love: for the Thirties she was Gertrude Lawrence, for the Forties Kay Hammond, for the Fifties Kay Kendall. Then, with Miss Kendall's sad and early death, the line seemed to be broken: other (and some better) actresses emerged in the Sixties, but none, not even Maggie Smith, with quite that same uniquely English and stylish blend of high comedy, high eccentricity and a high self-propelling neck.

Now, in the mid-70s, I think we've found another: she's Maria Aitken and like two of her immediate predecessors she first came fully into her own playing the ghostly *Straw in Coward's Blithe Spirit*. That current production says in the repertoire of the National Theatre and to it, from next Wednesday, she adds a role in the new Alan Ayckbourn *Bedroom Farce*, which she plays with Peter Hall as co-directing for the production stage at the Lyttelton.

Born in September, 1945 (which makes her very nearly the youngest actress to get into the new edition of *Who's Who in the Theatre*) Maria Aitken was the only daughter of Sir William Aitken, backbench Conservative MP who was Beauchamp's nephew and ran one of his syndication services.

"The job nearly killed him, and the two men really didn't get on at all—they had a relationship which was nepotism in reverse: but my brother Jonathan has inherited his political interests, and I've picked up the theatricality which was always in the family, though it infuriates Jonathan to be told that actors and MPs are really the same sort of people.

"I was a remarkably graceless child, but precocious, and when I was seven I wrote a play called 'Havoc among the Lovers' which probably tells you all you need to know. Anyway I wanted to act, but in those days Vanessa hadn't become a star, and at 11 I thought I was a female grotesque, doomed to play lesbian Spanish governesses at best. Even Alan only remembered me because of my height: when we started rehearsing *Bedroom Farce* he said 'My God I know you, you were the glattest in that *Othello* at Manchester, 10 years ago'. And by then I'd learnt how to contract my spine and move



around crouching, but I was still 2in taller than *Othello* and it was the only thing people ever remembered me for.

After an upper-class public schooling (Sherborne) Maria Aitken went to Oxford, "to read English, like all dumb women at that time. I never really thought I was going to act for a living, I sort of hoped I'd grow out of it, but I was so appalled to discover that the university dramatic society there didn't allow women as full members that I chained myself to the Playhouse railings for all of 10 minutes, and after that they allowed me to join and I played in everything from the Richard Burton/Elizabeth Taylor *Dr Faustus* to *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *The Cherry Orchard*. My tutor forbade me to go on acting all the time, so I used to bill myself in the programmes as *Aspidochelone* Plautus, and the curious thing is that nobody ever seemed to notice or care: I suppose programmes don't get read much."

From Oxford, and still trying to escape the life of a female grotesque in the theatre, she went to teach logic at a cramming college in the middle of a field in Suffolk:

"It seemed a good idea at the time: it was quite close to where we lived, and I managed to stay three pages ahead of the girls I was supposed to be teaching, and then I used to bribe them into paying attention with the promise of an end-of-term lecture on birth control. After that I decided I had better go into the theatre or else I'd end up thoroughly embittered at 40 and still teaching. I went to a huge number of Rep auditions, being careful not to say I'd been to Oxford otherwise directors thought I'd be the kind of bore who wanted to analyse Shakespeare in rehearsal instead of just learning the moves. Eventually I got a job as a stagehand at Coventry for Warren Jenkins who called me 'Boyo' relentlessly for a year, and then just before a matinee of a pantomime in Manchester in which I'd a small part I married an actor called Richard Durden. The family couldn't bring themselves to attend, so they sent the spaniel up on the train to represent them."

By now she was in the Li-berry Theatre company along with Warren Clarke and Sarah Kestelman:

"None of us was obviously very employable at that time,

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THE ARTS COUNCIL'S PRACTICAL TRAINING COURSE (up to 12 places only). Closing date for applications 30 April 1977.

Full details and application forms now available from: The Training Officer, The Arts Council of Great Britain, 105 Piccadilly, London W1P 0AU. 01-629 5885.

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Local Government, Public & Educational Appointments

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The Governors of the School invite applications for the post of Head of Fine Art. The main responsibility will be to co-ordinate the work of the Painting, Sculpture and Printmaking areas which are now working towards a degree in Art, validated by the Council for National Academic Awards.

The successful applicant need not necessarily be an outstanding practitioner in any of these three areas. He or she must, however, have tact, skill and imagination in the development of courses at both Degree and Honours Degree level.

The School is a Scottish Central Institution financed directly by the Scottish Education Department.

The salary will be according to age and experience, with placing in the region of point 17 of the Heads of Department scale (£3,600 p.a.).

Forms of application and further particulars are obtainable from the Secretary and Treasurer, Glasgow School of Art, 167 Renfrew Street, Glasgow G3 6RQ, to whom completed applications should be made by the end of March, 1977.

UNIVERSITY OF CAMBRIDGE UNIVERSITY LECTURESHIP IN GEOGRAPHY

Applications are invited for a Lectureship in the field of contemporary urban geography (economic or social), tenable from 1 October, 1977, or as soon as possible thereafter. Salary in the range £4,600 to £7,000 p.a. Further information may be obtained from the Secretary of the Appointments Committee, for the Faculty of Geography and Geology, Department of Geography, University of Cambridge, 222, 223, Downing Street, Cambridge, CB2 3EY, to whom candidates should send their applications (in two copies) together with the names of three referees, by April 15.

University of St. Andrews

CLINTONFORTH RESEARCH FELLOWSHIP IN SCOTTISH HISTORY

Applications are invited for the newly established Clintonforth Research Fellowship in Scottish History. The Fellowship is for two years, from 1 October 1977, to 30 September 1979. The successful candidate will be expected to undertake a major research project in Scottish history, and to publish the results of this project in a book or a series of articles. The Fellowship is open to holders of a first degree in history or a related subject, and to holders of a postgraduate degree in history or a related subject. The salary is £3,500 p.a. plus a small stipendium. Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Secretary of the Appointments Committee, University of St. Andrews, St. Andrews, Fife, to whom completed applications should be sent by 15 March 1977.

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SENIOR DEMONSTRATOR

Applications are invited for a Senior Demonstrator in the Department of Applied Physics and Electronics. The successful candidate will be responsible for the supervision of students in the laboratory, and for the preparation of lecture notes and tutorials. The salary is £3,500 p.a. plus a small stipendium. Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Secretary of the Appointments Committee, University of Durham, Durham, to whom completed applications should be sent by 15 March 1977.

NOTICE

All advertisements are subject to the conditions of the Times Newspapers Limited, of which are available on request.

Appointments Vacant also on page 15

NATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF CITIZENS' ADVICE BUREAUX

HEAD OF INFORMATION

To run a department of 22 people. The vacancy is not for a public relations post, but rather someone with the ability to provide information and advice to the public, as well as managerial skills. The department is involved in a two-way information process: providing an advisory service to the public, and receiving information from the public. The successful candidate will be responsible for the supervision of the department, and for the preparation of reports and statistics. The salary is £3,500 p.a. plus a small stipendium. Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Secretary of the Appointments Committee, National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux, London, to whom completed applications should be sent by 15 March 1977.

PRESS & PUBLICITY OFFICER

To take over in May the running of a small but active Press & Publicity Office at the Association's central office in London. The work will include contact with the national press, TV and radio, guidance to local Citizens' Advice Bureaux on publicity matters, and the development of promotional material and publicity campaigns. The successful candidate will be responsible for the supervision of the office, and for the preparation of reports and statistics. The salary is £3,500 p.a. plus a small stipendium. Further details and application forms may be obtained from the Secretary of the Appointments Committee, National Association of Citizens' Advice Bureaux, London, to whom completed applications should be sent by 15 March 1977.

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WOMAN'S REALM MAGAZINE

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We are also looking for qualified subs. who can type copy to fit, write captions, headlines, check facts and handle creative re-writing.
Apply in writing: Miss L. Margach, Woman's Realm, P.O. Box 100, London, to whom completed applications should be sent by 15 March 1977.

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Eric Heffer

Direct elections: simply playing politics is not what the people want

Since the vote in the House of Commons against the guillotine motion curtailing discussion on the Scotland and Wales Bill, there has been a great deal of talk about direct elections to the European Assembly. The Cabinet has had a full day's meeting on the subject, as a result of which a "White Paper with Green Edges" will be presented to Parliament. The new Foreign Secretary has declared to the House of Commons his personal commitment to direct elections. The White Paper should be published within the next two weeks and will probably contain detailed arguments for and against the various methods of election.

In my view, direct elections to the European Assembly are no more popular in the country than the proposals for devolution, in fact less so, because the devolution proposals do at least carry some support in Scotland and were in Labour's manifesto, whereas direct elections carry little support anywhere. Especially now, when the detrimental effects of being in the EEC for a number of years are clear for all to see. However, attempts are now being made by some leading Tory politicians to play politics over the issue. They believe that following the vote on devolution, they can further embarrass the Government on the question of direct elections, and constantly press the Government, as did John Davies in the Commons last week, to bring in a Bill to introduce them at the earliest possible moment. If and when

such a Bill is introduced it is clear that it will herald a constitutional and political battle which will by no means be confined to the Labour Party. The Tories are also divided on the method of election, as well as on the principle.

Most of those who opposed Britain's continuing membership of the European Community during the referendum campaign in June 1975, will undoubtedly oppose direct elections. This is made clear, for example, in Ronald Bell's letter to *The Times* last Wednesday. They will be joined by others who whilst accepting the EEC as an economic community, have no wish to see it advance further towards political unity. There are also those who will oppose direct elections on the very practical grounds that Britain cannot continuously be holding elections because it simply cannot afford them, and rather than strengthen democracy, such elections can, because of their frequency, undermine the Westminster Parliament.

It can and will be argued, that those who are against direct elections are acting like old ladies, and whether they like it or not, acceptance of entry into the EEC by the majority vote in the referendum, meant acceptance of direct elections. In fact, the people did not vote for direct elections, but there is a grain of truth in the charge, in the sense that there are some politicians in the country who will never accept the EEC, believing it to have been an unmitigated disaster for Britain.

Whether one accepts the EEC or not, one thing is crystal clear. It would be quite wrong, despite the assurances given by Harold Wilson, then PM, to the heads of government of the EEC countries, for Britain to rush into another constitutional change. There are many complicated issues involved. There is the whole question of the method of elections. The Select Committee of the House of Commons, which has considered direct elections, has proposed that Britain should, as in parliamentary and municipal elections, and as proposed for the Scottish and Welsh Assemblies, have the "first past the post" system. This would entail the bringing together of between eight to ten constituencies forming one European constituency. Complications would arise if the elections were held at different times to general elections. Most European governments want them on the same day throughout the Community.

Unfortunately, the turnout for local municipal elections can be depressingly low and for European elections would probably be even lower, with the results not being a true reflection of the political support of the parties in the country. Yet if the list system were used, it would mean the whole country being added together, that would be a form of proportional representation and therefore a fundamental constitutional change.

Once such a system had been adopted for the European elections, pressure would

mount for a similar system for parliamentary and municipal elections, which could only result in coalition governments. There is also the question of who would draw up the list. In the Labour Party, the list would be drawn up by the NEC, though during the existence of a Labour Government, the PM would have to be involved. This could lead to intractable arguments and serious conflict, apart from patronage, which is not to be encouraged.

Another suggestion is that the elections could be held on the same day as the general elections, and some of the MPs elected to Westminster could also be Euro MPs with seats in Westminster, as well as being directly elected to Strasbourg. It will be interesting to see just how many more ideas are advanced in the White Paper with Green Edges.

The Government has said it will use its "best endeavours" to meet its European partners over direct elections. They are, of course, in a cleft stick. For if they were to bring in a Bill quickly, which would please the governments of the EEC and the Euro-fanatics in Britain, they would then find themselves in conflict with the Labour Party conference.

It is worth recalling that at the Blackpool Conference the NEC of the party presented a document called "Direct Elections—arguments for and against".

The NEC stated it was in favour of the arguments against and recommended that

conference reject the principle of direct elections. There was also a resolution, moved by the Manchester Blackley CLP and carried by conference on a show of hands, which said: "The conference opposes the introduction of direct elections to the European Economic Community Assembly, for which no mandate was given by the electorate at the time of the referendum. Direct elections are intended as a major step towards the merging of this country in a new super-state, which would further weaken the British people's democratic control over their own affairs and in which the ownership of carrying out the British Labour Party's basic programmes would be increasingly remote."

It can rightly be argued that the vote for remaining in the EEC was not a vote for greater political unity and certainly not a vote for federalism. The Government booklet issued at the time of the referendum said: "No important new policy can be decided in Brussels or anywhere else without the consent of the British minister answerable to a British Government and a British Parliament."

It is true that even now, we are increasingly affected by a mass of regulations, all emanating from Brussels. It is also true that Westminster has found it difficult to find sufficient time to discuss these directives, decisions and regulations, and some measure of influence remains.

If we had directly elected

representatives, Westminster would have little or no influence and the opportunities of the British people for influencing EEC policy would become almost impossible.

As Jim Callaghan, the Prime Minister, said at Portsmouth a number of years ago, "There will be an elected parliament for the whole EEC. Think of the situation then. It will be no use British electors coming to the candidate for a Westminster Parliament and complaining about prices and unemployment. They would have no more control over these matters than does the present Hampshire County Council."

"Take it up with the European Parliament," they will say. And the best of British luck, because our representatives are in a permanent minority there."

There is of course another line open to the Government. They can say to their EEC partners: "We have looked at every conceivable angle. We have used our best endeavours, there is no acceptable way forward on this issue. We therefore will leave things as they are. We shall send MPs to the European Assembly and we shall send them as we do at the moment."

The author is Labour MP for Liverpool, Walton. © Times Newspapers Ltd, 1977

Sowing seeds of civil war will not help Rhodesians

Now and then in our lifetime we are conscious of a deep historical wrong being done to a people, or a group, or a person. Some of us then wonder what we as individuals can do about it. Usually the answer is—nothing; but once in a long while we make a puny effort towards putting things right.

In the 40 years since I first worked on newspapers, most of them on *The Times* abroad and in London, two such injustices have stuck in my throat. One is the wrong done to the Palestinians, and the other the injury that is being done now to the Rhodesians—the white and the black Rhodesians.

In the case of the Palestinians, their land and their homes were taken from them. The principle of founding a Zionist state was in itself unacceptable, but this should not have been done at the expense of some one else, particularly some innocent of the wrong done to the Jews in Europe. The only recompense that can be offered is a Palestinian state, and I tried to project such a state in articles in *The Times* 10 years ago or more.

Today, however, I am writing about the Rhodesians, not the Palestinians. To me, wrong is being done to the immediate present to the whites, and in the longer term to the blacks, too, in Rhodesia. Again, the principle of bringing in African majority rule is in itself honourable enough, but Britain's recent dealings with Rhodesia have not been honourable.

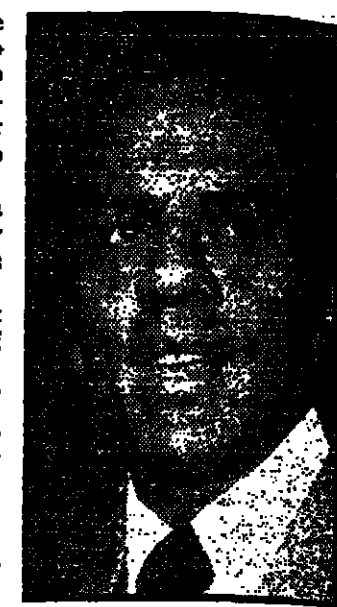
I am speaking, of course, of the sequel to Dr Kissinger's mission up and down Africa last year. Until Mr. Ivor Richard, chairman of the conference which was held in Geneva, went to Africa after that conference, he seemed to be trying to by-pass the Rhodesian Government. He got no thanks for this from the Africans, some of whom later angrily claimed that it was they who had been ignored; but one has only to look back at the record.

To take just one example. Mr. Richard spent weeks and weeks in Africa in argument with the Africans over a date for independence to begin, but newspaper readers could not tell whether the Rhodesian Government was ever consulted or agreed on this date. That Government, however, holds the view that it may claim any independence date, or want any decision on Rhodesia over its head, is like sending football teams on to the field without the ball.

It could not help wondering at the time whether a black man would have achieved more as chairman. Mr. Andrew Young, who now represents the United States at the United Nations and who has taken up the affairs of southern Africa, would at least be free of guilt complex, or whatever it is that makes many British politicians deaf to any but African voices.

Mr. Ian Smith, the Rhodesian Prime Minister, as the Diplomatic Correspondent of *The Times* wrote on January 25 this year, would say that he is not going to let the South African, that he had to accept the Anglo-American five-point plan in full. This he did, but no one else did. Britain, with the EEC—and, for a time, even the new Administration in Washington—following her lead, finally agreed to the proposals, could and should be quietly forgotten.

Subsequently Mr. Crosland, the late Foreign Secretary, said that the Kissinger points had been only a basis for discussion, and were rejected by the African nationalists in Geneva. That, he implied, was the end of the matter. But how could they have been only a basis for negotiation if Dr. Kissinger told Mr. Smith that they would not be negotiable, and had to be accepted as a whole?



Mr. Young.

Why silence and acquiescence when Africans reject one set of proposals, and roar and outrage if the Rhodesian government rejects another set?

Dr. Kissinger would not publicly acknowledge, when he made his last visit to London, that he did project his five points as a concrete agreement, and not as cardboard to be scrapped; but he could not really make such a public admission then. He was in the twilight of leaving office and did not want to mar his own record; and he also did not want to embarrass the British government or the African presidents, whom he had consulted.

Mr. Andrew Young, however, has now admitted that the Kissinger proposals were meant to be settled by saying in so many words that the United States has left Britain holding the baby. Obviously, Dr. Kissinger did not persuade Mr. Smith to turn a somersault and accept majority rule in two years by simply blowing bubbles at him. Only when some Africans shifted their ground or dug their toes in, did Britain pretend that the Kissinger document was a mirage; yet Britain herself helped to draw up that document—the proposals were Anglo-American.

Each and every time that Mr. Smith is lectured he is told he must accept whatever propositions are being put to him because of the "ghastly" or "calamitous" consequences if he does not. For years now, refrain has been demanded of his government; its very reputation is a weapon in the guerrilla war. But time goes by, and though murder intensifies the guerrillas still do not get the upper hand.

What does become more visible, especially in the manoeuvring just beyond Rhodesia's borders, is the planting of seeds of civil war between African power bases in Matabeleland and Mashonaland. Britain, by encouraging or trying to win the men who have the guns, is furthering this.

What, then, do I as an individual propose to do about all this? I am going this month to live in Rhodesia for a year or more to work with the Government; there, and with the African, too, as far as I can, I should like to be of use to the next British or American would-be conjurer who comes that way. I pray, though that he will be a man of flesh and blood, and not simply suave and bland.

What, then, do I as an individual propose to do about all this? I am going this month to live in Rhodesia for a year or more to work with the Government; there, and with the African, too, as far as I can, I should like to be of use to the next British or American would-be conjurer who comes that way. I pray, though that he will be a man of flesh and blood, and not simply suave and bland.

Jerome Caminada

Production difficulties have necessitated some alterations in normal editorial schedules. Bernard Levin's columns will be resumed next week.

Enough to start a war, by jingo

An occasional series on new words and new meanings.

Chauvinism and *chauvinist* (as in male chauvinist pig, *passim* in liberated and other trendy discourses) are words that have been widely popularized by the Women's Liberation Movement that came to birth in the United States in the 1960s. As a consequence, like all popularized technicalities, they tend to be used in inappropriate contexts, and with more emotion than precision. In the war between the sexes *chauvinism* was a brilliantly successful slogan to describe an attitude of superiority towards members of the opposite sex, or behaviour exemplifying such an attitude, as in: "It is a sexist fallacy to fight male *chauvinism* with female *chauvinism*." (Sexist is another successfully expressive term of Women's Lib that has come into the common language.) Because *chauvinism* is so successful and so powerful a word, its use has been extravagantly extended, diluting its particular meaning, and spilling over into the proper territory of words such as nationalism and patriotism.

The primary meaning of *chauvinism* is exaggerated patriotism of a bellicose sort, for which the French coined the phrase *idolatrie napoléonienne*. It was a name invented for a nineteenth-century French quality, for which the closest contemporary British equivalent was *jingoism*. The nomenclature of *chauvinism* was Nicolas Chauvin, a French fusilier born at Rochefort, whose simple-minded heroism and devotion to Napoleon made him a byword and eventually an eponymous word in its own right. His military career, in parts at any rate, appears to have been legendary in the old-fashioned sense of the adjective. He is reported to have been wounded no fewer than 17 times in the French Revolutionary and Napoleonic wars, always in the

front, naturally. He had three fingers chopped off, a shoulder fractured, and his forehead horribly mutilated; and was rewarded for his services with a sword of honour, a red ribbon and a pension of 200 francs. The battered old soldier came to typify the cult of military glory and sacrificial patriotism that was popular after 1815 among the veterans of Napoleon's armies.

Satire, lampoons, and caricature during the 1830s ridiculed *Chauvin* as the exemplar of naive and blind patriotism, and *chauvinisme* came to mean ultranationalism of any kind, whether Bonapartist or not. A popular play of 1831 called *Le Cocarde Tricolore* by Charles T. and Jean Hippolyte Cogard made *Chauvin* a ridiculous household name, and secured his name immortality in the dictionaries in a silly way. The recent modern development of *Chauvin* as a satirical song, in *Chanson du Chameau*, which made all France laugh.

Chauvin marched farther than France. His fame spread to Italy, where he gave his name to *sciovinismo*. And he crossed the Channel into English in the middle of the nineteenth century. Significantly one of his examples in the *Oxford English Dictionary* declares: "Educated men are supposed to see the difference between patriotism and *Chauvinism*." The development of Nicolas *Chauvin's* legacy to the language has weakened that difference.

If it remains faintly true to its engagingly ludicrous eponymous father, the word *chauvinism* ought to mean an exaggerated and naive nationalism that looks down its nose on lesser breeds without the law. It was an apt and powerful derogatory metaphor to apply to males who regard females as naturally their inferiors, because of the supposed virtues of the masculine sex. The trouble is that it has become such a popular cliché that it comes first to mind automatically instead of nationalism or patriotism, which are neutral or positive words. *Chauvin* was a dangerous foe. But he did not make all nationalism and all patriotism dangerous and foolish.

Philip Howard

Interesting ideas—but can they work?

In the struggle for power that is developing in the Labour Party all the attention has been focused on the organizational battle. Who will hold the balance of the NEC? Who will control the constituency parties? Who will be elected to what post in the unions? But there is another battle that is always of particular importance in any left-wing party: the battle of ideas.

Political parties of the left are usually founded either to protect group interests or to pursue an ideology, or to do a bit of both. That is certainly true of the Labour Party. From the beginning it has had, but not always compatible, objectives: to further the interests of the trade unions and to build a socialist society. But there is another group, the pragmatic radicals, whose allegiance is essential but whose place in the party is always liable to be questioned. They are indispensable if the party is to win elections because, at any rate in Britain, their attitudes tend to be closer than other sections of the party to public opinion at large. But because they generally do not subscribe with any burning conviction to the party's two basic purposes they are under a standing obligation to show that they really do belong there.

In his massive and masterly biography of Ramsay MacDonald, Mr. David Marquand shows that MacDonald was not only put what he deemed to be the national interest above the more narrow considerations of the trade unions; and well before 1931 the precise nature of his socialist beliefs was unclear to many of his comrades. As a pragmatic radical he played the outstanding role in the rise of the party, but the continuing tragedy of 1931 is that his example has made life that much harder for pragmatic radicals in the party and its generations. The onus is all the more on them to show that Labour is their true home.

Hugh Gaiskill met the challenge in characteristically forthright fashion when he told the 1955 party conference why he became a socialist. It

was not so much, he said, because I was a passionate advocate of public ownership, but because at a very early age I came to hate and loathe social injustice, because I dislike the class structure of our society, because I could not tolerate the indefensible differences of status and income which distinguish our society, because I hated the insecurity that affected such a large part of our community while others led lives of security and comfort, because I hated the poverty and the squalor."

This was the revisionist socialism of the 1930s for which Anthony Crosland provided the creed in his book, *The Future of Socialism*—the socialism of high public spending, economic expansion and social egalitarianism, but with little attachment to public ownership. His belief in high public spending distinguished him from radicals in other parties. They had a distinctive philosophy even if it was not the socialism of more dearth members of the Labour Party.

But it is no longer the philosophy of pragmatic radicals in the Labour Party today. That is evident from the pamphlet, *What We Must Do*, now published by the Manifesto Group. Although it pays lip service to the principle of a high level of public expenditure, the practical emphasis is on the need to control the public sector. It states flatly that there is no room for further increases in direct taxation and proposes certain reductions, even mentioning with favour a Canadian report recommending a more broadly based system of taxes to put a stop to abuses in trade union power as any moderate Tory these days.

So the pamphlet dispenses with the defences employed by earlier generations of Labour's pragmatic radicals without falling back on the party's fail-

lar prepared positions. That is a mark of realism, but it does leave today's pragmatic radicals very much in need of someone to do for them what Anthony Crosland did for their predecessors in the 1950s. This pamphlet does not aim to be another *Future of Socialism*. It is more modest in purpose and achievement. But there are two other objectives that are still very much worth the effort. One is to specify with vigour and precision what right-wing Labour MPs believe should be done at this exceptionally difficult time. The other is to establish a distinctive philosophical position from which to fight if Labour loses the next election and the current economic policies are discredited within the party.

The very title, *What We Must Do*, suggests that it is aiming at the first target. In fact, it does not really, but it is not sufficiently concentrated on what can and should be done here and now for it to meet the first objective. It wobbles back and forth along the time scale. It is not a sufficiently rigorous and sustained piece of analysis to satisfy the second purpose. It is more than a manifesto, less than a creed.

But if it fails to establish a distinctive position for Labour's pragmatic radicals can one, none the less, discern from its pages how one may be constructed in the future? It starts from the proposition that the British economy is dominated by great producer groups on both sides of industry: large private companies, public corporations and trade unions. "Without their cooperation," no government can achieve its aims. Therefore what is needed is a positive government that will bring together and mobilize their activity in the national interest by means of an incomes policy, central industrial planning, a national trade policy linked to this industrial strategy, manpower and training policies. To guard against the dangers of the corporate state, Parliament

would be strengthened by devolving the committee system. There are the makings of a philosophy that would be distinct both from Labour's left, with its belief in public ownership and control, and the radical right, with its distaste for interventionist policies. But to be convincing these ideas do need to be worked through more fully. Incomes policy is a case in point. There are three schools of thought on incomes policy: those who believe that to pursue one always does more harm than good; those who believe that it may occasionally be a useful device for a strictly limited time; and those who see it as a permanent instrument of economic policy. Those in the third school, like the authors of this pamphlet, have an obligation to show how it can operate satisfactorily.

The pamphlet proclaims that what is wanted is an incomes policy which contains the average level of wage rises and yet responds to market forces within those limits. But how? One method, we are told, would be for government, unions and employers to bargain annually for the next year's average settlement, and then leave it to the unions and employers to negotiate its distribution. But would that not require a much more centralized union structure than Britain has ever possessed? What chance is there of that? The pamphlet wants another monitoring body, along the lines of the old Prices and Incomes Board. Could that be developed so as to have more than a marginal effect on the level of wages?

Such ideas need to be taken further in order to be convincing. But the right needs convincing ideas if it is to be more than the anti-state in the aftermath of a Labour defeat. In order to win the battle within the party the pragmatic radicals will have to appear more positive than that. This pamphlet is a help, but not an answer.

Geoffrey Smith

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The Times Diary

How you've been these 25 years

brought about by high taxation.

He also feels that we have been carried away by our love of insurance and pensions. We are so tolerant that we allow drugs and pornography, and so perfect that we allow others to cash in on jet aircraft and nuclear reactors, because we will not sell them ourselves until we are satisfied they are just right.

But he is not entirely despondent. He believes we are still ahead of the world, for our efficient agriculture, our anti-pollution measures, our remarkable number of Nobel Prize-winners, but most of all for our monarchy. He tried, but could not for the life of him, remember the names of the presidents of West Germany or Italy. He had a president instead of a Queen, he thinks, it would either have been Emanuel Shinwell or Harold Macmillan. And nobody would have been able to remember their names.

Clearing up

For the serious gardener, there is no really suitable time to take a holiday, except perhaps the middle of January. Returning to the British allotment after an absence of about three weeks, I found the weed-growing season well under way.

With family assistance, I reaped twice from the garden being over-run by weeds. The lettuce have survived the hard winter well, are of a pleasing deep green colour and I should be able to start plucking them in a few weeks.

The autumn-sown onions, with which I did well last year, are less promising. It has become almost impossible to pick them out from the thick growth of grass and other weeds which surrounds them, and a good many have been knocked off by the frost.

My neighbouring allotment holders, notably the Ace Cultivator, have been active in my absence, turning my patch, which only a month ago was one of the best kept of all, into one of the scruffiest. They have cleared most of their sprouts and winter cabbages, making me feel obliged to do the same. This gave us a rich yield of greenery to consume over the weekend.

This year's sowings are determined by the fact that we shall be moving to the United States in July, so I am concentrating on crops that will mature before then. I had already put in broad beans (last autumn) and spinach, and have supplemented these with sugar peas, spring onions and more lettuce. This should stoke us up with vitamins before we are exposed to the junk food culture.

Celestial Seasonings, an American company, have taken the bold step (unusual in America) of marketing tea bags without tags, even though they boast, people have enjoyed reading them. The firm explains that it is being done for ecological reasons. "We feel," they declare mysteriously, "that quality of life is far more important than quantity."

Handicap

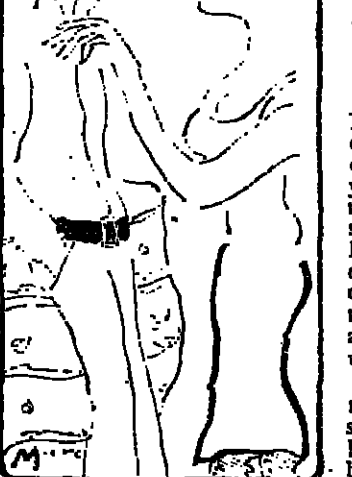
The London College of Furniture are holding a four-day seminar on equipment for the disabled, and yesterday they were discussing prospects for the future. Despite the ingenious devices displayed in neighbouring exhibition room, the prospects did not sound as bright as most people must have hoped.

Though speakers were at pains to emphasize how common disability was—"the normal person is someone who can hide his handicaps," said one—Frederick Cotter, chairman of the Association of Disabled Artists and Manufacturers, said a principal difficulty was that the market for any product would be a small one.

"The aim," Cotter said, "should be a good variety of equipment with different purposes, not a variety of equipment with different finishes and detail but all for the same purpose. And they should be at a price that can be afforded." But British cost-consciousness is handicapping the manufacturers too. "At the moment we could not export our equipment to the Continent. The standards which

show they're printing the Times again, we can

announce our



the Department of Health say are all that we in Britain can afford are simply not good enough from the point of view of quality of materials and workmanship to be accepted in Sweden or Switzerland. That means that if we want to export we have to have a second range of products."

attractive for student projects" he said. "I think we should spend less on studies and more on building prototypes."

"There is an increasing interest in the use of voluntary labour resources. I any year we might get 500 suggestions from consultants for equipment that would be useful—but for which there is no commercial viability. If people all give time and effort to develop and build these things, ourselves, there is potential there."

Spend, spend...
The Rating and Valuation Association held a meeting yesterday on "How best to enjoy your staff and resources in the present climate of financial stringency." The publicity leaflet noted that local government officers "will have to take crucial decisions in the use of their staff and resources to achieve the cuts in expenditure which are being required."

The meeting was held at the plush Cafe Royal and was scheduled to last, as far as I can tell, two hours of which were taken up by coffee and lunch. The fee was £18.50 plus VAT, which included, as well as the discussion, "morning coffee, three-course lunch, wine and afternoon tea." Whatever happened to the climate of financial stringency?

Another advance in Japanese technology. The Japan Times reports that the Tokyo metropolitan government intends to adopt "a strict offensive odor control" employing "a human nose detection method."

PHS



censorship, which is not only quite wrong but rather inconsistent. He says that "our intellectuals have substituted campaigns for discourse"; at least one of them is trying to substitute censorship for criticism, and then has the nerve to complain because some of his own work is not published!

NICOLAS WALTER.
Editor, *New Humanist*,
88 Wellington High Street, N1.
March 3.

GHANA

Divisions healing after 20 years

by Kenneth
MacKenzie

Just 20 years ago, amid wild celebrations in the streets of Accra and after a gracious speech by the Duchess of Kent, the colony of the Gold Coast became the independent state of Ghana. It was a time of great hopes.

In London people dreamt about the friendly hand-over of power leading to a stable, democratic (on the Westminster model) addition to the British Commonwealth.

In Accra people dreamt about setting up a socialist state whose growing prosperity would be shared by all. Of leading the whole continent out of colonialism and into a united states of Africa.

These dreams foundered, and to that extent the story of Ghana's first 20 years might be regarded as one of failures, or of a succession of failures. But it might also be simply that the expectations were wrong.

Certainly no one visiting Accra today would find there a sense of disappointment or sadness. The spirit and gaiety for which Ghana has always been famous remains unimpaired. There is now, five years after Ghana's second military coup, a new sort of hopefulness growing among some people, a feeling that perhaps for the first time the right road forward may be coming into sight.

To deal with the fallacies first: the great hero of 1957 was Kwame Nkrumah, and the extent of his failure was seen in the fact that hardly a Ghanaian rose to defend him when the Army removed him from power in 1966. It seemed that the whole country was delighted as people jumped on his portraits and ripped his statues.

They are putting up the statues again now. The pendulum has swung, and the present regime is preparing full honours for a great African statesman when his final funeral rites are held next month. People, proud with pride to his achievements, praise him as the founder of the Volta River Pro-

ject, the huge advance in education (3,500 children in secondary schools in 1951, and 19,900 in 1961), to name only a few.

There is a feeling that much of what he said about the dangers of neo-colonialism, for instance, was right, though much of what he did was ineffective. Above all, he was the man who took Africa on to the world stage, standing shoulder to shoulder with the leaders of other nations.

They will tell you in Ghana that the West exaggerated his leanings towards the cult of the personality, that the significance of his assuming the title *Osufofo* (Redeemer) was misunderstood. But there is no doubt about the dictatorial powers he increasingly exercised, the detentions of political opponents and former allies, the pervasive fear and the end of the rule of law (a chief justice dismissed because Nkrumah disagreed with his verdict). The fact that he narrowly survived two attempts on his life explains much of this but does not really excuse it.

No one denies, too, that there had been a basic political failure: he did not keep in any sort of contact with the people he ruled, and his Convention People's Party became a corrupt sort of bureaucracy instead of a genuine mass movement.

Most important, his financial policies (helped by a sharp fall in the price of cocoa) had brought Ghana to the edge of bankruptcy by 1966.

The soldiers who took over while he was on a visit to Peking called themselves the National Liberation Movement. "The myth of Nkrumah has been broken," their leader, Colonel E. K. Kotoka, said in his first broadcast.

Their declared aim was to return Ghana to democracy and, most unusually for military coups, they proceeded to do just that. Committees of inquiry led to a constitutional commission, which led to a constituent assembly, which led in 1969 to a well-ordered general election.

The Progress Party of Dr

Kofi Busia, a long-standing opponent of Dr Nkrumah, won an overwhelming victory, and he was handed power by the generals. His period of rule is generally taken to be the second great failure story.

Party politics degenerated into seriously divisive tribal strife; the new constitution was suspended; corruption (an endemic disease in West Africa) grew out of hand; economic mismanagement was unchecked and the overseas debt became markedly worse.

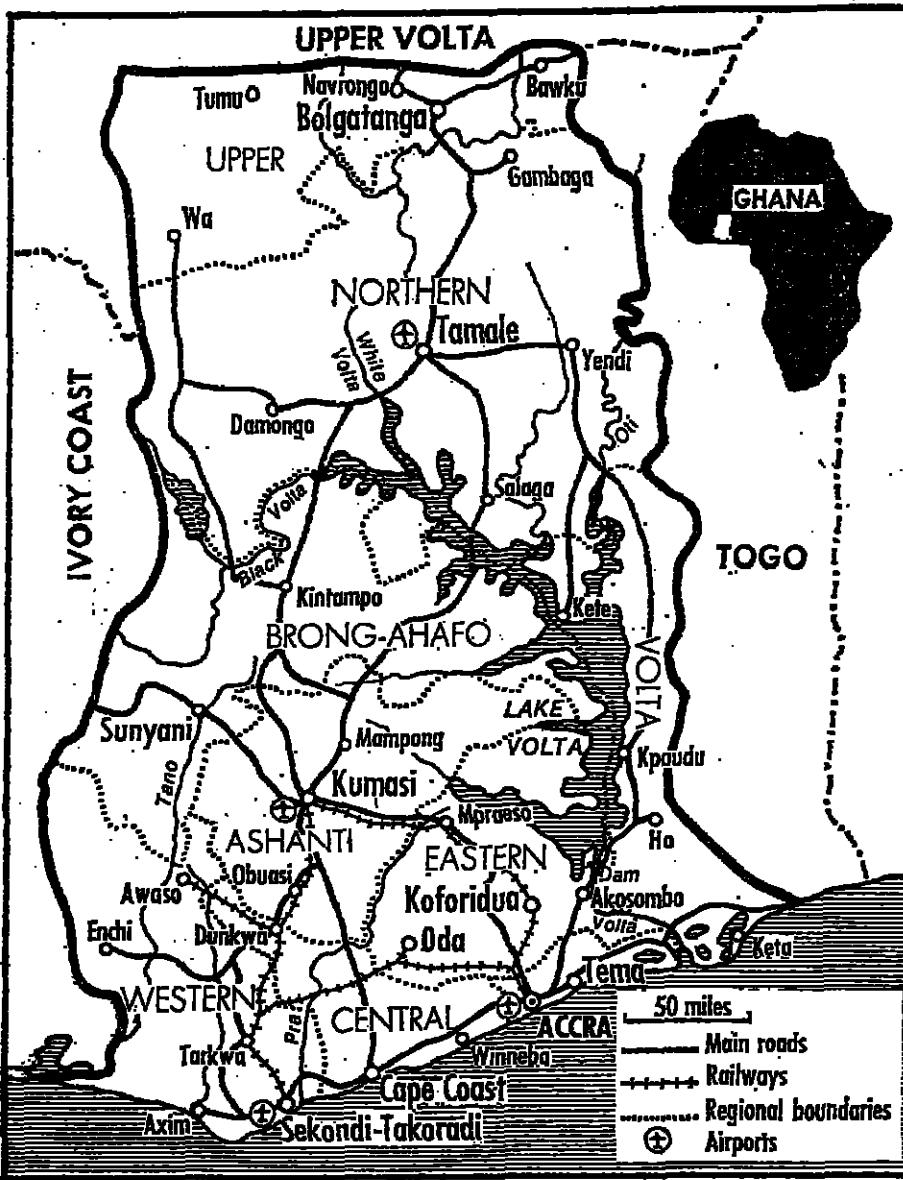
In January, 1972, while Dr Busia was in England, the almost unknown Colonel Ignatius Kutu Acheampong, commander of 1 Brigade in Accra, seized power, backed by a group of fairly junior officers. This is the point where the Ghana optimists begin to find some reason for their hopefulness.

General Acheampong (as he now is) has no driving political ideology. He likes to put himself over as a simple soldier, professing the military virtues of courage, patriotism, straightforwardness and honourableness. He took over because he found the muddle and corruption had become intolerable. It had also begun to affect the welfare and organization of his beloved army.

The son of an Ashanti farmer, he was a school teacher for a short time before going into the army. He did his officer training in France and America (not Sandhurst, unlike many Ghanaian officers). He is a devout Roman Catholic.

No one would call him an attractive figure: his oratory is stumbling. But he is personally respected and liked in Ghana. His five years in power have provided a stability, and he seems firmly in the saddle.

The basic tenet of his political philosophy is self-reliance, and he takes great pride in his Operation Feed Yourself, which has reduced Ghana's dependence on imported food. The country's economic problems are far from solved but this seems to indicate a pointing in the right direction.



Another great asset lies in his justified claim to head a "government of reconciliation": he has made gestures to former Nkrumah supporters and brought others from previous regimes back into public life, even some Busia men. He is strongly against ethnic divisions. The billboards repeatedly proclaim: "One nation, one people, one destiny."

Though General Acheampong has and exercises powers of detention, there is little visible sign in Ghana of oppression. Trade unions and the press are more free than in most African states. Ghanaians do not hesitate to state emphatically their opinions.

What of the future? Is there any chance of the soldiers again returning to their barracks? General Acheampong has said that Ghanaians should look into their own traditions to find some system of representative government that would work better than Westminster-style party politics. He has appointed a committee to hear public ideas. He talks of "union government", but it is far from clear yet what he means by the term. There seems little doubt that the military would continue to play a part of some sort in any future set-up.

The debate is just beginning. Some intellectuals have pointed to tribal traditions under which a chief could rule only by consent and after consultations, and could be "destooled" if he lost the confidence of his people. Some groups, like the students and the Bar, for different reasons, reject the whole concept.

But there seems no doubt that General Acheampong is sincere in his desire to find an answer. He has repeatedly said that he knows he cannot govern for ever. The problems are not confined to Ghana, and the "union government" debate seems likely to be of great significance throughout Africa: its outcome is likely to decide the success or failure of Ghana's next 20 years.

Country weakened by ambition

by Alan Rake

"L'Afrique est mal partie" (Africa got off on the wrong foot), said René Dumont. In his book, which became the bible of modern development thinking, he shows how almost all newly independent African nations rushed pell mell into industrialization, mechanization and other allurements of western society and ignored their basic agriculture.

Nowhere in Africa is the Dumont message clearer than in Ghana. Ghana was the pride and joy of its world-wide friends when it became free in 1957. Kwame Nkrumah inherited a united country with a viable economy, good balance of payments and strong foreign exchange reserves.

But Nkrumah, for all his political stature, was not an economist. While President Houphouët-Boigny in the neighbouring Ivory Coast, starting with less physical endowments than Ghana, produced the Ivorian economic miracle, Nkrumah lived according to his political philosophy and sought the political kingdom first.

What economic strategy he had was in the same mould as his political nationalism. He vigorously pursued an economic nationalism long before Ghana was strong or experienced enough to turn it to its own advantage.

For example, his establishment of a weak cedi, unattached to any major trading currency, was a fatal mistake which is the root cause of many of Ghana's endemic problems today. Because Ghanaians have no respect for their own currency almost every substantial citizen is striving to get foreign exchange and hold it in a foreign bank account. Ghanaian farmers smuggle their cocoa and even basic foodstuffs into the hard currency, CFA franc-linked countries next door. Ghanaian manufacturers smuggle out their textiles and household goods.

Although successive Ghanaian governments since Nkrumah have set up the most complex and painstakingly administered exchange control system in Africa, the people will always find a way round the regulations until they develop respect for their own currency. And this will come only when the economy is sound and is seen to be so.

It would be churlish to blame Nkrumah entirely on his currency mistake. His economic nationalism led him to argue that if Africa concentrated on agriculture then its people would remain the hewers of wood and the drawers of water. He said that the route to economic salvation lay in rapid industrialization.

However, experience has taught that the countries which followed Nkrumah along that path ended with a series of badly run, over-protected industries, dependent heavily on foreign imports of raw materials and spare parts which almost invariably made losses and drew the country's foreign exchange reserves.

There are periods, such as the early 1970s, when the average growth rate of the gdp since the 1960s has been 2.5 per cent while population growth has been 2.7 per cent.

Ghana's balance of trade situation remains precarious. There are periods, such as the early 1970s, when the average growth rate of the gdp since the 1960s has been 2.5 per cent while population growth has been 2.7 per cent.

Imports have a tendency to rise just as fast and in bad years like 1974 they actually outstrip exports substantially: 1974 was the year in which Ghana's imports nearly doubled from 526m cedis to 944m cedis.

The year 1976-77 should show a massive rise in cocoa earnings, which traditionally account for more than 60 per cent of Ghana's total exports. Though the crop is expected to fall from approximately 390,000 tons to 350,000 tons, the cocoa price will double from an average selling price of £500 a ton to an estimated £1,200 or more. This should mean that cocoa earnings rise from £234m to £400m. And total exports should be a record.

Ghana to a state of economic collapse. He left an economy crippled by debt, with falling production and large capital outflows.

All that was 20 years ago, but the point is that the Ghanaian economy, despite the efforts of the three governments which followed, has never been able to get back on to the right course. Ghanaians today still enjoy a fairly high standard of living, but they are being overtaken by other African countries which have maintained higher growth rates. The average growth rate of the gdp since the 1960s has been 2.5 per cent while population growth has been 2.7 per cent.

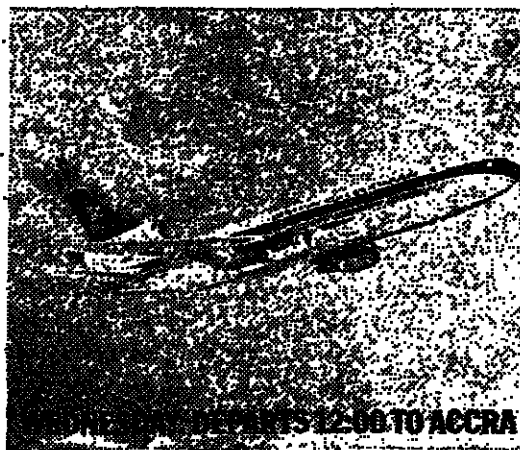
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continued on next page

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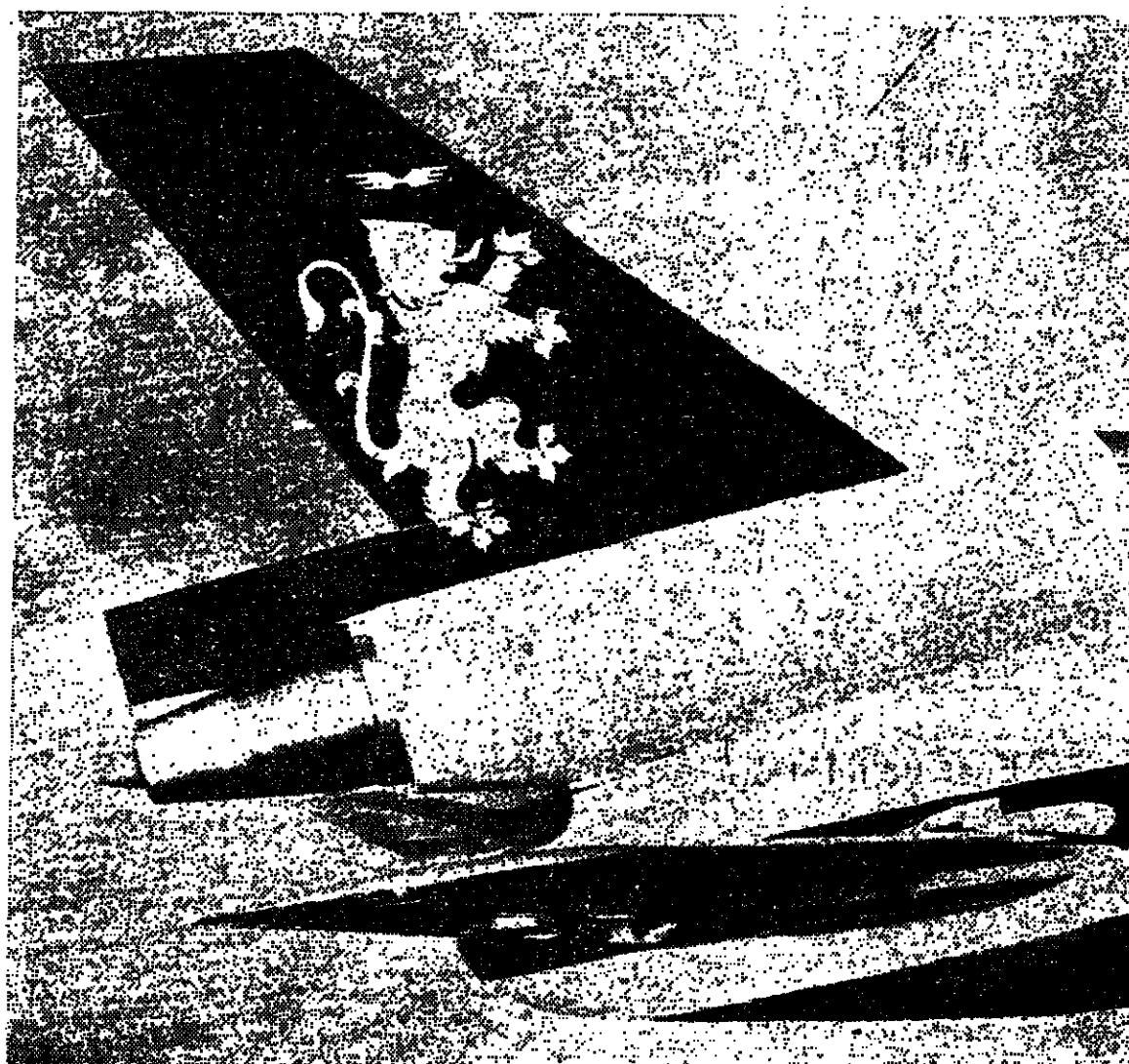
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Foreign policy based on non-alignment...

by Kenneth MacKenzie

One of the first things the Acheampong regime did when it seized power in 1972 was to repudiate ideas that the Busia Government had entertained for a dialogue with Mr Vorster, the South African Prime Minister. Any contact with the white regime would compromise Ghana's relations with the rest of Africa, it was said.

General Acheampong also announced from the start that his foreign policy would be based on non-alignment and positive neutrality, phrases that recalled the Nkrumah days, as did the emphasis on relations with other African states.

The first result of his policy was the reestablishment of formal relations with China, which had been broken after the 1966 coup. Teams were also sent to the Soviet Union and East Europe to strengthen or reestablish relations there.

A number of aid projects which were broken off in 1966 have been reactivated. Russian plans to set up an atomic reactor project at Kwabena are to be revived, for instance, and a Russian agricultural team recently visited the country.

General Acheampong is not anti-West: he maintains excellent relations with Europe and the United States and receives substantial aid.

There was some difficulty in 1972 when he repudiated some of the Busia Government's debts, but this has been resolved. He takes a pragmatic view of foreign relations, rather than an ideological one.

He has close relations with the Arab states, for instance, from which he is receiving massive support for the building of a new dam on the Volta river at Kpong. Out of solidarity with them he broke off relations with Israel, but there are now moves to reopen contact.

On African relations he said in an interview in

1973: "My belief in pan-Africanism is total and absolute. You will notice I have built my philosophy around self-reliance. I do not see this only in terms of my country. I see it in continental terms. . . . What I hope to do is to join other leaders of Africa in thinking anew the methods by which we will bring to realization the ideals of unity."

A testing of this spirit of cooperation will come later this year over the proposed Economic Community of West African States (or Ecowas). The idea for this was put forward two years ago and in July the introductory period ends. The 15 member states will then be obliged to take concrete steps within a year to reduce discriminatory import duties, harmonize tariff policies and prepare for the full operation of a common market in the region.

Ghana has repeatedly expressed its commitment to the plan, but there are enormous difficulties to overcome. The collapse in

the past weeks of the East African common market cannot have been an encouragement.

In the five years he has been in power, General Acheampong has only returned out of Ghana in order to go to Lomé, Togo (just across the border) in connection with Ecowas. Presumably the memory of coups during the absence abroad of Dr Nkrumah and Dr Busia invades caution.

It is ironic that Togo should have had the honour of a visit, for it is on such bad terms with Ghana that the two are no longer speaking to each other. The main reason is the huge volume of smuggling of cocoa and other goods that goes on across the border, to Ghana's serious economic disadvantage. Togo does little to stop it.

There is also the fact that there are Ewe people on both sides of the border, and there has always been a faction which wants either the ceding of some Ghana territory to Togo or the set-

ting up of a separate Ewe state. This is most strongly opposed by the Ghana authorities.

Finally, the recent big treason trial in Ghana followed an alleged Ewe plot against the regime, and the man who is said to have led the conspiracy escaped capture and is reported to be living unhindered in Lomé.

Ghana works hard at international affairs. On Rhodesia, for instance, General Acheampong has already this year entertained at Accra Mr Nkomo and Mr Sibhole (he urged them to unite); had consultations with President Kaunda; sent a message to Mr Callaghan criticizing Britain's stand; urged international oil companies to go to Rhodesia; and asked members of the Organization of African States to work for stiffer sanctions.

It is perhaps a measure of Ghana's place on the periphery of things that the net effect on Rhodesia of this activity seems likely to be minimal.

Shortly before independence 20 years ago a senior British official in Ghana was quoted by *The Times* as saying: "Our object is to bring about self-government in the atmosphere of a coming-of-age party, not of the divorce courts."

The phrase has a paternalistic edge that would not, one hopes, be heard today, but it also expresses the close, almost-family ties that have always existed between the people of Ghana and the people of Britain who have had any contact with them.

Mr Harold Macmillan, who started his wind-of-change Africa tour in Ghana in 1960, spoke then of the "real affection" between the two countries.

Later this month the Prince of Wales will almost certainly be surprised by the warmth of the welcome he receives during his eight-day visit to the country. The fact that he is making the visit with the main purpose of attending the fiftieth anniversary celebrations of the remarkable Achimota Col-

lege, near Accra, is an indication of the esteem in which Ghana is now held in Britain.

There have, of course, been moments of strain over the past 20 years. Immediately after independence there was great concern in Britain about Dr Nkrumah's use of his powers of deportation. A storm blew up over his refusal to admit a British QC, Mr Christopher Shawcross, to the country to allow him to defend two British journalists accused of contempt of court in Kumasi.

Another crisis came just before the Queen's visit to Ghana in 1961. In the months before she was due to come Dr Nkrumah had taken into detention hundreds of his opponents. Some bombs had exploded in Accra. The President had suddenly dismissed his British Chief of Staff, General H. T. Alexander, because he said he wished to expedite the Africanization of the Army. (There had also been some disagreements about operations in Congo, and

General Alexander was deeply disturbed by the President's plans to send some officers for training in Russia.)

All this caused some British MPs and newspapers to express fears about whether the safety of the Queen could be assured during the proposed visit. In the end the British Government sent Mr Duncan Sandys out to Accra to investigate and have talks with President Nkrumah.

He reported in favour of the visit, which took place amid great enthusiasm and with no untoward incident. Prince Charles will meet many people who have the happiest memories of that visit.

The immediate aftermath of the 1972 coup was another difficult time, mostly because of the Acheampong regime's decision to repudiate many of the intergovernmental debts of the Busia Government—it claimed the debts were entered into corruptly. However, a meeting with the debtor nations in

Rome about two years later led to an agreement on new terms and normal relations were resumed.

In a written answer to one of a number of questions submitted by a correspondent of *The Times* to General Acheampong last year, the Head of State said: "Relations between Ghana and the United Kingdom can be classified as very warm. We are now strengthening co-operation in the economic and cultural fields and I am sure that in the months ahead such cooperation will be deepened even further."

The only point of difference recently has been over the best way to deal with the Rhodesian question.

The latest sign of the improvement in relations has been the formation last month of an all-party Anglo-Ghanaian parliamentary group at Westminster. Lord Listowel, the last Governor-General of Ghana before the declaration of a republic in 1960, is president.

K.M.

Cocoa loses ground despite official aid schemes

by Susan Morgan

Ghana has long enjoyed the position of being the world's greatest exporter of cocoa and the country that produces the best quality cocoa. The crop accounts for about 62 per cent of its exports and 33 per cent of local revenue.

With world prices soaring past £2,000 per tonne Ghana would seem to be perfectly placed to do well on the world cocoa market and earn much-needed foreign

exchange. Unfortunately, however, production has dropped by as much as 60,000 tons this year and there are also reports that some has already been sold forward. Thus the country will not be able to benefit as much as it might have.

Ghana Cocoa Marketing Board officials say they were lucky to produce 350,000 tons this year, a drop from 388,000 tons last year. Other experts estimate this year's crop at about 330,000 tons.

That state of affairs has a variety of causes, many

inherited from previous regimes. Among them are bad management, lack of systematic replanting, low producer prices to farmers, old age of both trees and farmers, and bad weather (principally lack of rain and rain at the wrong time).

Some of these difficulties have their roots well in the past. Such is the case of incurable cocoa disease called swollen shoot. During the Busia administration government control was stopped and the disease spread rapidly. Even now it

affects some 18 per cent of the trees.

The present Government's emphasis on Operation Feed Yourself and self-sufficiency has caused cocoa production to lose some of its prestige and many farmers have turned to domestic food staples such as maize or tomatoes. Such crops, particularly maize, often prove more remunerative. Not only do they take a much shorter time growing (a cocoa tree matures at about nine years old), but the Government pays only 20 cedis for a 72lb load of cocoa.

The result of those and other setbacks to cocoa production has left most production in the hands of old farmers and that is causing the Government considerable concern. Many young people are turning to other branches of farming or leaving the land altogether.

The old age of the trees is also worrying. The Government has various replanting schemes, but those will take between five and 10 years to mature. Ghana's competitor and neighbour, Ivory Coast, which produces about half the amount Ghana does, is geared to double production in 10 years' time and hopes to overhaul Ghana.

Cocoa Marketing Board estimates that about a quarter of the cocoa production is affected by the most serious of the pests, capsids.

Smuggling is not confined to insecticides. Cocoa itself is smuggled to the extent of about 5 per cent of Ghanaian production, anything between 10,000 and 20,000 tons. The anti-smuggling campaign known as Operation Counterpoint, has had only limited success. The traffic is due to the low producer price for cocoa in Ghana: smugglers can obtain four or five times as much money across the border.

Government improvements include cocoa rehabilitation schemes and credit facilities. Four hundred cedis a hectare is available for four annual applications of fertilizer, capsid control and brushing. The period for repayment is 13 years, with no interest payable in the first four years. Four thousand farmers have benefited so far.

Since 1972 a total of 3,480 hectares of cocoa have been replanted. Existing cocoa rehabilitation during the same period is 9,000 hectares.

Other important projects include a cocoa research station at Tafo and two World Bank rehabilitation projects, one in Eastern Region and the other in Ashanti.

The Eastern Region project covers 60,000 hectares. It provides credit for the rehabilitation of 20,430 hectares of mature cocoa and the planting of 14,400 hectares of new farms. All new farms are planted with new hybrids (improved yielding) and about 5,500 farmers are expected to benefit from the project. It has also been decided to encourage replantation farms, not only to increase production but also to serve as model farms.

The Ashanti project aims to help in the replanting of 16,500 hectares. Other efforts by the Government to improve cocoa production include providing feeder roads to make farms accessible, a new bank to provide seasonal advances to cocoa farmers, and free cocoa seedlings for farmers.



Tradition wearing a homely and august face. Above: a battered truck, the original "holy roller", in Accra. Top: Otumfuo Oponuo Ware II, Supreme Chief of Ashanti, surrounded by his courtiers.

Country weakened by ambition

continued from preceding page

territories and as long as this situation persists smuggling, sometimes on a massive scale, will continue. At the end of 1976 the Ghana cocoa farmers' producer price was equivalent to £390 a metric ton, Nigeria's £571 and the Ivory Coast £766.

But the Ghana Government simply does not have the cash available from budgetary sources for an increase of this scale. So it would be able to pay the farmers only by bank borrowing which has already reached a level to cause inflationary problems, or by devaluation of the cedi which would also be inflationary and politically unacceptable (as the prime factor which caused the collapse of the Busia Government in 1971).

Ghana's achievements in food production, through Operation Feed Yourself, launched in 1972, has been far more commendable. For the Government has abandoned Nkrumah's loss making capital intensive state farms and has concentrated on incentives for the small holders who produce 90 per cent of agricultural output. It has given them subsidized inputs, low interest loans from the Agricultural Development Bank and high guaranteed prices for rice and cotton.

The Government is now phasing out the input subsidies—particularly that on fertilizers, which proved too costly—and is concentrating on direct price incentives. As a result self-sufficiency has been achieved in rice and would have been achieved in maize had not the weather been exceptionally dry during the past two years. Self-sufficiency has already been achieved in other basic essentials. In future more emphasis is to be put on selected industrial and cash crops such as rubber, sugar, ginger, cotton, oil palm, groundnuts and cashew nuts for local factories and for export.

The State Fishing Corporation has increased production 60 per cent in the five years since the Acheampong Government took over and has consistently exceeded its Operation Feed Yourself targets. A big drive is being made on livestock. International agencies such as the World Bank are assisting with integrated farm projects benefiting the small farmer: the prime example of this being the 63m cedi Upper Regional project.

But why, General Acheampong was asked at a recent press conference, if local crop production has been

such a success, was the food import bill 140m cedis in 1974 and 105m cedis in 1975? And why is the price index of local food increasing at an immense 63 per cent a year?

His answer was partly the two years of bad weather and partly that certain countries I would not like to name are sharing the food with us. He referred to smuggling on a massive scale into Upper Volta and Togo of basic foodstuffs as well as the traditional cocoa.

Kwame Nkrumah did leave Ghana with a good economic base. The roads he built and the Akosombo dam have proved their worth many times. And most of the industries which started under his regime are still running, giving Ghana one of the most comprehensive light industry structures in Africa.

Nowadays the industries are better managed and they strive to make profits. But the big problem, in almost every factory, is shortage of foreign exchange even to pay for basic raw materials and spare parts. Most factories are not working at capacity simply because they do not have the licences to import essential items. A typical example is the egg and poultry business which is short of basic animal foodstuffs, resulting in low production and prices of chickens and eggs rising three times in the past two years.

Ghanaian inflation which has been running at an official rate of more than 40 per cent since 1975 and at more than 50 per cent since the middle of 1976 is now of Latin American proportions. Inflation is linked to world inflation levels (running at more than 20 per cent) but has also been caused internally because the Government has been borrowing extensively from the Bank of Ghana to finance development expenditure. If the Government were to pursue a policy of retrenchment this would depress the economy, create a negative rate of growth and high unemployment, which would simply be unacceptable in Ghana today.

The trouble is that Ghanaians have developed a taste for high living, for western goods and standards and for an advanced way of life. This taste had been acquired even in colonial times and has never been held in check by Nkrumah or any government that has succeeded him. The Ghanaians, like the British, are not keen to give up the easy life and compete.

The author is editor-in-chief, New African Development.

Farm units of only one and a half acres

The pattern of land tenure also affects Ghanaian production. Some farms have been reduced through inheritance to units as small as one and a half acres. Absentee landlords, who have bought up bankrupt farms, are another obstacle. The Government is trying to buy these farms back because the lack of adequate supervision by these owners is causing a drop in production.

In order to combat pests and disease the Government subsidizes insecticides and makes them available to farmers. But in some cases insecticides are smuggled out of the country before they reach the farms, and there is also a shortage of sprayer guns. The Ghana

Drive for food self-sufficiency loses some impact

among these are a lack of foreign reserves with which to buy vital capital equipment and machinery such as tractors, combine harvesters and all important spare parts and also animal foodstuffs.

Exacerbating this problem is the import licensing system, an attempt to conserve precious foreign reserves. The system has been abused and not enough licences are available for vital imports. In addition the system has led to severe delays in supplies of machinery and spare parts. It is hoped that the new monitoring system recently established for import licensing system will improve matters.

The State Farms Corporation has blamed its slow development on a shortage of working capital and the import licensing system. Spiralling prices of vital inputs and the unfavourable exchange rate have created further trouble. Thus the corporation reports that total acreage of crops planted fell between 1975 and 1976 from 5,630 acres to 3,860 acres.

A secondary phase of OFY is Operation Feed Yourself, an attempt to increase production of raw materials such as oil, rubber, and cotton. In Ghana's soap and textile industries respectively and which can be produced easily

in Ghana. Production of both these crops and others such as rubber is increasing, but it is still too early to assess the success of this programme with any accuracy.

Cotton production in the north is proving both successful and profitable but still about 90 per cent of Ghana's cotton is imported. Because of their low operational costs, plantation crops such as oil palm, citrus, cashew and rubber are being emphasized.

New crops such as soybeans and sunflowers are also being introduced. Mr Williams Baffo, Director of Agriculture, spoke of the export of tropical fruits and vegetables such as pineapples, avocado pears and papayas as well as tomatoes and citrus fruits.

The lack of adequate trunk and feeder roads from farms to the market is the chief obstacle to agricultural development. All Ghanaians refer to the problems of fruit rotting on the trees in the growing areas while in the capital, Accra, there are high prices and even shortages. Five big projects to improve the existing road network should ease this problem considerably.

The Government is concerned about the high market prices and excessive profits made on locally-

produced foodstuffs. Domestic food prices are a big contributory cause to rising inflation which is now more than 60 per cent. To curb such abuses the Government has decreed that certain food staples may be sold only in government shops at controlled prices.

Another aim is to cut out the middlemen, as many as four or five, between the farmer and the consumer. This is being combatted by forming associations among producers of different crops and providing storage facilities and selling direct to the public.

As well as transport inadequacies the lack of farm machinery is serious. "We could do with 200 to 300 more tractors", Mr Baffo said. It was because of the shortage of combine harvesters that much of this year's rice crop was not harvested. Instead, a substantial proportion (up to 50 per cent according to one newspaper report but probably lower) was left and much of it burnt through bush fires.

Smuggling of crops such as rice and other cash crops across the borders is another difficulty the country faces.

The exodus of young Ghanaians from the land is a cause of great concern to the Government, which is Board was set up to develop Livestock it is now acting as a marketing organization

mainly through cash crops. However, such incentives have not yet had any marked success in preventing the steady exodus of young people seeking white-collar jobs in urban centres.

Livestock production is a government priority both to improve the Ghanaian diet and the balance of payments (in 1974 28m cedis were spent on milk and meat imports). A newspaper article said recently that it was "a somewhat neglected area of our green revolution".

The amount of capital outlay needed to build up the Ghanaian cattle herd is proving difficult but progress is being made. The chief difficulties revolve around trying to improve the native breed of West African short-horn while retaining its resistance to endemic diseases such as trypanosomiasis. Big cattle herds are situated in Akkasi, Otiwa (Volta Region), a new ranch in the Northern Region, Kwamanso in the Eastern Region as well as a private project in the Accra Plains, developed by an Australian, which is doing very well.

The Bank of Ghana's herd is also being overseen by an Australian. Although the Ghana Cattle Development Board was set up to develop Livestock it is now acting as a marketing organization

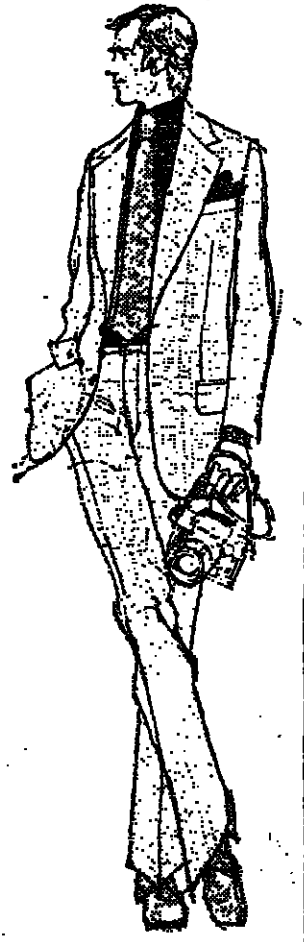
There are other livestock projects, notably pigs (the Dawhenya piggery has an average stock of 600 pigs and there are plans to increase production).

About 80 per cent of the country's protein requirements are met by fish which is cheap and acceptable in all Ghanaian homes. Inshore fishing and traditional fishing methods are proving insufficient to meet the country's fish consumption which has soared, largely because of a fall in meat imports from Sahel countries after the drought.

There is overfishing in inland waters. I counted 40 dug-out canoes, the traditional fishing craft, fishing in a very small area. A significant development in Ghana's fishing industry is the Ghanaian State Fishing Corporation which merged with Ghana Cold Stores. At present it has only eight trawlers and plans to acquire more. The country is negotiating to acquire fishing rights in Senegal and in Angola.

S.M.

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مكتبة القاهرة

Where dishonesty proves profitable

by Patrick Gilkes

"Smuggling is a way of life", a senior civil servant said. "And if we don't smuggle we profiteer."

How many really are involved in anyone's guess but profiteering and smuggling have certainly been officially identified as three of Ghana's main enemies. As General Acheampong said bitterly in February, Ghana seems much better at feeding its neighbours than itself. Figures are naturally hard to come by but there is growing public concern at the scale of the graft. One newspaper recently went so far as to have front-page banner headlines: "Does honesty pay in Ghana?" The conclusion of the article was that it did not seem to.

The Government has tried

hard to prevent hoarding and profiteering where it hurts most—in the market place. With last year's special commodity decree a number of basic commodities, among them milk, soap, sugar and toothpaste, were removed to specific retail outlets with controlled prices. This move was specifically aimed at the market mania who were the ones most often accused of profiteering.

The change has had some success. Supplies have been erratic but prices have been kept down and goods can be obtained though the necessity for long queuing has created a new job category that of the professional queuer. But attempts to extend this system recently to control of flour and baking have not been so successful. The attempt highlights the difficulty of any such system. Flour can now be bought only by licensed retailers and bakers and the amount is supposed to

depend on the previous month's usage.

A list of the licensed dealers has been issued, but many on the list are not traders in flour or bakers; they nevertheless go and collect their allowance and then sell it to friends or other traders. As a result much of the flour passes through many hands before reaching the public, the price rising considerably. Bread is also getting scarce in Accra in the wake of this move.

Recently Accra was hit by a severe shortage of matches. The manager of the match factory claimed that he could not understand it—the factory was working at full production and not a day had been lost. The match factory in neighbouring Togo had closed down and within 24 hours, that's where all our matches had gone. They had been smuggled over the border.

The Government then tried to limit match sales to

a packet a customer. Traders simply dispatched all their friends and relations to buy up single packets until stocks were exhausted. The matches then appeared in the market at higher prices.

The "notorious" market for these sorts of manoeuvres but not always fairly. They will certainly take their cut but often the commodities have gone through several hands first each time with a rise in price. Paradoxically the Government's attempts to keep prices down actually encourage the smuggling side of this. Almost everything that Ghana produces is smuggled out to the Ivory Coast, Togo and the Upper Volta.

Even when price advantages do not make it worth while the buying power of the CFA franc over the cedi and the range of goods available in those countries does. It is profitable to

smuggle: corn, maize, fish, tinned sardines and mackerel, oranges, peppers, beans, evaporated milk, toothpaste, toilet paper, matches, cattle and almost anything else. Fertilizer for example, is scarce even though enough has certainly been imported for the whole country's needs, but the Government subsidizes about three-quarters of the price for the farmers—so now it pours across the border.

Most of these goods go out in fairly small lots or wish individuals. Much more serious are the well organized big gangs responsible for the large-scale smuggling of cocoa, rice and timber. For example, which is carried by motor transport. They are well organized to switch from product to product as demands change and they operate on a large scale. In one case that came to light last year 12 articulated lorries loaded with sawn timber and plywood were stopped on the Togo border. Smuggling on this scale hardly deserves the name by individual operators. The big boys have all moved over to the Ivorian side across the country. This at least shows that the Government's main anti-smuggling operation, operation counterpoint, along the Togo border, has had some success. The operation has netted hundreds of smugglers and is still going on.

Its sixth phase was launched by the Commissioner of Information on February 9 when he drew attention to some of the Government's measures in combating smuggling such as the special commodities decree and the payment of informers. But significantly that same week at Aflao only a kilometre from the Togo border the police found it necessary to close down all the food stores,

the record and drug shops and the textile stores. The Government has failed to compete with the smugglers for the loyalty of the border guards, who are badly paid. It is widely known that they cooperate with smugglers and take pay-offs. The kickbacks are firmly believed to pass up the chain of command to their superiors. Even the frequent transfer of border guards which is one of the Government's main weapons to close off border points to smugglers is believed to be merely a method of allowing all members of the force to share in the payments received from smugglers.

It is not just at remote border crossings that there are problems. At the end of January 143 customs officials were transferred from the main entry points of Accra airport and Tema harbour. Most significantly many of them were also

moved from the head office in Accra as well. The move was called streamlining but the head of the customs announced that he had warned his men against corruption and taking bribes. One cynic suggested that they were transferred not for taking bribes but because they had been remiss in spreading the profits.

It seems almost impossible to stop either smuggling or profiteering—whether or not the constant rumours of high-level participation are true. Prices paid to farmers do not reflect world prices nor are they sufficiently large enough. The CFA franc remains a far more valuable currency than the cedi. With inflation the rate it is and with frequent shortages whether induced or not the opportunities for making a profit are apparently just too much to resist. Most Ghanaians do not even try.

River project is national showpiece



The Volta River Project deserves its place as one of the showpieces of Ghanaian development. The Akosombo dam site is reached in about two hours from Accra. The project follows the slow moving Volta river to one of its narrowest points. One travels through wooded gorges to reach the site. The word Volta means "to meander", and this it does.

This site was chosen because of the relative narrowness of the gorge at this point, even though the river has been swollen by the confluence of the White, the Red and the Black Volta (where hippopotamuses still live), and by the entry of the Afro and the Oti. A second reason for the choice lies in its proximity to the bauxite deposits at Mpono in Kwahu. The project aims essentially at producing the electric power necessary to transform bauxite into aluminium.

This project still absorbs some 70 per cent of the total energy output of the dam. In addition this cheap source of power is much in demand by other mines—gold, manganese and diamond—as well as for domestic consumption and even export to neighbouring Togo and Benin. Exports of energy to Upper Volta represent another future project. The availability of this cheap source of energy has revitalized and encouraged industrial

growth throughout southern Ghana.

The production of cheap and plentiful energy is the fundamental but not the only benefit to result from the Volta River Project. By damming the river, the world's largest man-made lake (surface area, not volume) has been created. Just 250 miles long and consisting of 3,275 sq miles of water, it has opened possibilities for water transport. The river has long been used as a highway, and is increasingly used for convenience and cheapness.

Fish is one of the most important sources of protein in Ghana. Fish production is considerable in the fresh water lake, and schemes are under way to increase this. There are also plans to irrigate the surrounding areas and improve agricultural production. Ghana has suffered badly from droughts in the past two years. A further project is that of building another smaller dam at Kpong a few miles downstream from Akosombo to produce more hydroelectric power, consumption of which is increasing fast.

Plans for developing the Akosombo site date back to 1915, as a means then as now of developing aluminium from local bauxite by electric power. After years of delay and starts, the project finally got under way only after independence when negotiations with the United Kingdom had broken down.

It was at this stage in 1958 that Dr Nkrumah, the

Ghanaian Prime Minister, visited the United States and succeeded in enlisting the help. The Americans promised to put up half the necessary money on condition that an American consultant, Kaiser Engineers, re-appraised the project. They were also asked to form an aluminium company to consume most of the power and so justify the project.

Work on the dam began finally in 1962, an international consortium Impregilo having won the construction contract. A mere three years later power was first produced on a commercial basis.

The cost of the power scheme after completion was about 145,040,000 cedis. The maximum generating capacity of Akosombo has been raised to 912 megawatts after the addition of two more generating units in 1972, bringing the total to such units to six. After the main consumers—Velco, the aluminium smelter, and the mines—the Electricity Corporation of Ghana uses power produced there to serve the southern part of Ghana through a national transmission network of 808 km. Electric power is also exported to the republics of Togo and Benin at a rate of 25,000 kilowatts an hour. These two plans to double their consumption soon.

The energy crisis has provided a considerable incentive to Ghana to increase its production of hydroelectric power, which is much cheaper than conventional

thermal production methods. In addition the proliferation of industries attracted by a cheap power supply means that consumption is rising so rapidly that demand threatens to outstrip production in the next five to 10 years unless other sources of energy be made available.

In order to meet this increased demand a second project at Kpong is due to start this year. This project will be on a smaller scale than Akosombo and will produce about a sixth of the Akosombo dam's output, an official from the Volta River Authority told me.

Feasibility studies are being carried out with a firm of Canadian consultants with a grant from the Canadian International Development Agency. According to the same official a consortium of Arab banks has already put up \$70m.

The European Development Fund and the European Investment Bank are also reportedly funding this project. Tenders for the civil construction of the project have already apparently gone out. Sweden, France, Germany and Italians are competing, among them the same Italian consortium which built Akosombo, but no tender has yet been accepted. It is hoped that the project will show results by 1980-81, or else as a Ghanaian explained: "We may have to import power from the Ivory Coast". This is something the Ghanaians with their independence would rather avoid.

Other schemes arising from the Volta River Project involve proposed irrigation of the Accra and Afram plains for the production of food for local consumption and for cash crops. The possibilities of expanding fish production are being closely studied, and the outlook seems promising. Already the yearly catch from the lake is between 45,000 and 60,000 tons a year. Among the best varieties of fish found in the lake are mudfish, Tilapia, and finest of all the Nile perch. One caught recently was reported to have weighed 300 lb.

Water transport is another interesting project. There has been a considerable increase in the volume of two-way traffic. A pilot transport system is operating and a commercial transport company has been formed to operate on the lake. Already many people prefer travelling through Kpong and Kere Krachi in the Volta region to Yapei in the Northern Region rather than the long and expensive road journey from Accra to the north. Two crafts, the Akosombo Queen and the Ashanti Queen, operate on the lake, as do motor boats.

Other projects in the area associated with the Volta River Project include that of developing a pulp plant. A caustic soda project has also been suggested but plans for both are still on the drawing board.

S.M.

Radical change in education

The Ghanaian Government is making considerable efforts to improve and extend its health and education programmes. Ghana's public health service is recognized as one of the best in West Africa—though more still needs to be done in preventive medicine.

However, progress is being made in immunization, provision of drinking water and health education. The number of rural medical units has been increased and there is continual research into diseases like malaria and tuberculosis.

Ghanaian education has undergone a radical change since General Acheampong's 65 per cent. The Government came to power, it involves correlating education with the needs of the country and employment prospects. This means more emphasis on practical training and less in the traditional academic bias of British education.

The Government is reintroducing Ghanaian languages in primary school. Perhaps the most basic aim of all is to bring more Ghanaian children into the school system and the Government has allocated 949,000 cedis to complete construction projects, which it is hoped, will greatly increase enrolment in primary and secondary schools.

In the past it has proved difficult to persuade teachers to work in outlying areas, particularly in the Northern Region. Efforts are being made to increase the proportion of children entering secondary schools, at present only 17 per cent.

Courses in secondary schools concentrate on practical subjects—clerical skills, agriculture and commerce. The Government has allocated 45m cedis for vocational and technical training to dovetail curricula and work requirements more closely.

Science, mathematics and the acquisition of manual skills are also a priority for the same reasons. Sixty per cent of all secondary schools now teach clerical skills and bookkeeping. The establishment of the Ghana tertiary service established to stimulate and upgrade local craft industries through new orientation and retooling university education.

The Government has allocated 2.3m cedis to improve teacher training facilities. Some of them are to be specially trained to help handi-

capped children for examinations. At present there are 1,150 handicapped children in public education.

There are two interesting research projects under way. The first, in association with the Ghana Institute of Journalism, is finding out whether a children's newspaper made available throughout the country would improve the literacy rate, and the second involves using Piaget's experiments on Ghanaian children.

Adult education is also receiving attention and it is hoped that this will cause a fall in the illiteracy rate (believed to be more than 55 per cent). The Government's priorities for scientists, technologists, mathematicians and professionals with scientific training have resulted in substantial backlogs. The majority of students have been allocated to institutes of higher education.

The University of Cape Coast acquired full university status only in 1972. The University of Ghana (which has long enjoyed a close relationship with the University of London) has about 2,964 students in seven faculties, including science, medicine, agriculture, social sciences, the arts and law.

In Kumasi, faculties include agriculture, farm management, tropical horticulture and tropical forestry. To encourage training in agronomy, the Government has recently made 420,000 cedis available for agricultural research stations in universities.

There are also faculties of architecture, engineering, pharmacy, science and social sciences. The Technical School of Mining, now part of the University of Science and Technology, recently received a grant of 33,670 cedis.

The Department of Pharmacy in Kumasi is researching the possibilities of exploiting indigenous natural resources to produce pure and pharmaceuticals. Another interesting project is the establishment of a tertiary service established to stimulate and upgrade local craft industries through new orientation and retooling university education.

The technical education division is an attempt to produce middle-range specialists on which Ghana's

industrialization depends. Training takes place in both polytechnics and technical institutes.

Much remains to be done in combating disease, in sanitary conditions and in adequate diet. A particularly desirable development is the extension of the health service into rural areas through the installation of health posts—four or five of which are attached to one health centre.

Each post consists of a health centre superintendent, a midwife, two community health nurses, a microbiologist and a health inspector, as well as a government health service. Medical services are also provided in rural areas by various voluntary agencies.

In Ghana, as in many developing countries in Africa, infectious diseases represent the majority of hospitalizations and mortality—50 and 30 per cent respectively. Often, what would be a fairly minor disease in a healthy child can be a severe illness or indeed lead to death in an undernourished one. Thus a child with a severe case of measles complicated by pneumonia, gastroenteritis and malnutrition may in many cases not even be brought to a hospital because of distance.

Immunization has always proved a very effective weapon against these diseases—the difficulty in a country like Ghana is that it is expensive. In the late 1960s a campaign to immunize against smallpox and measles was very effective. But if immunization against diphtheria, whooping cough, tetanus and poliomyelitis is to be undertaken it will prove costly as a fleet of well-equipped vehicles would be needed and children would have to be seen more than once a year.

The problems of covering the sparsely populated country are considerable and infectious diseases are particularly noticeable in the rainy season. Another difficulty is the maintenance of a "cold chain", a system of keeping vaccines refrigerated all the way from their origin to their destination, which may be miles from a road.

Trials to overcome these problems are to form the basis of a nationwide im-

munization programme. Another immunization pilot project, involving community participation rather than an imposition of such a service, is taking place at Kintampo with assistance from several international organizations.

The technology consultancy group of Kumasi University is working with The World Health Organization on the cold chain project to develop a freezer and isothermic flask to be tested in the field before being produced locally. Local industry has shown great interest in developing such projects.

Diseases which the medical service is trying to control include malaria (which is widespread in Accra because of the inadequate sewerage system), tuberculosis (which is believed to affect about 80,000 people), onchocerciasis, yellow fever, sleeping sickness and yaws.

Other important health care programmes include mother and baby units (infant mortality has been reduced to still about 130 per 1,000 births); environmental control; and nutrition.

Family planning services are active in Ghana. They have had some success but are hampered by the traditional view that a woman acquires status if she has many children, while on the other hand children are looked on as extra hands. There is also the belief that some may die and it is better to have one or two extra just in case.

Basic health education is taught in schools and other centres through calendars. A calendar I saw included exhortations to boil water, to give children a proper breakfast before sending them to school, and to wash hands before eating.

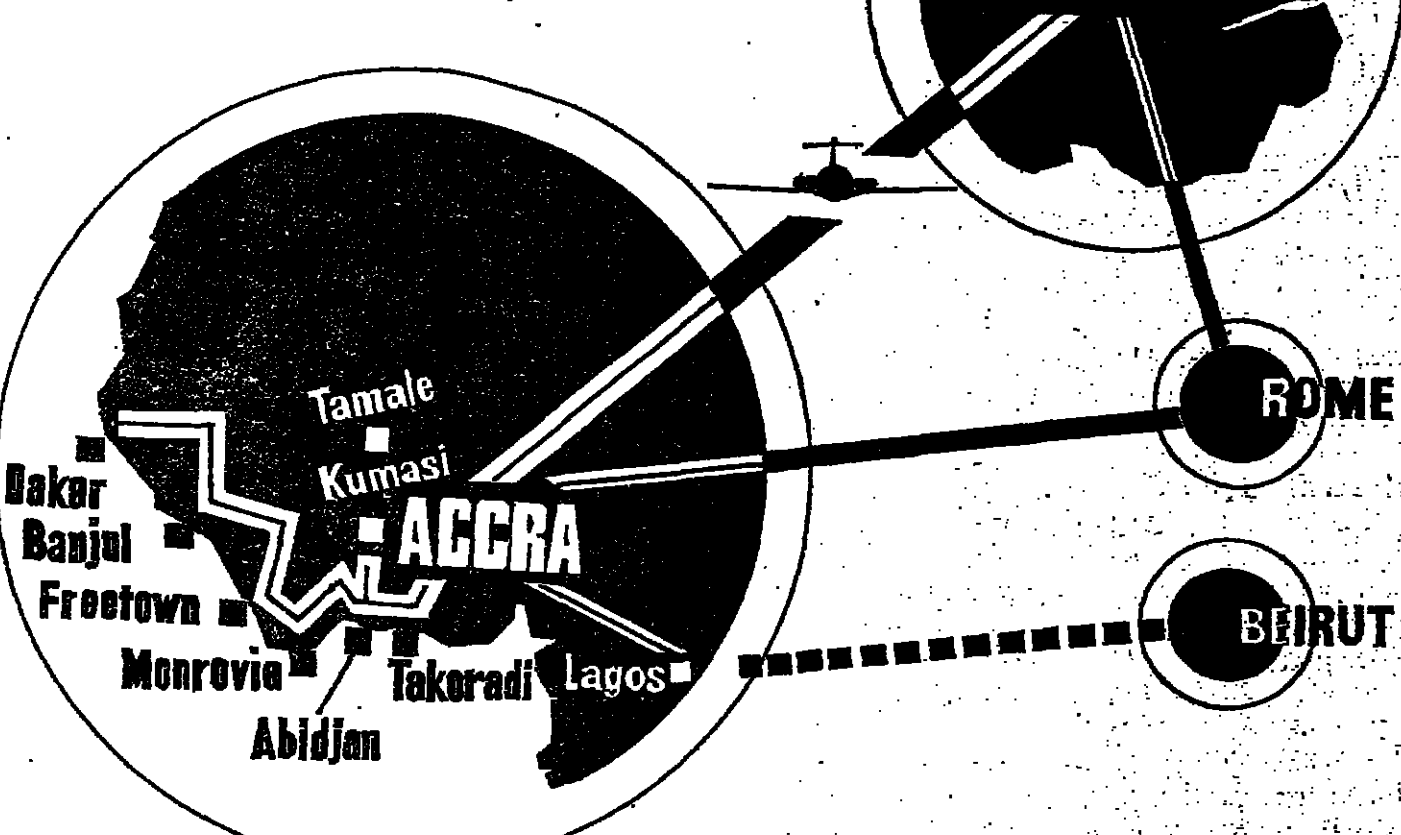
In order to man these programmes a growing number of doctors, nurses and other medical specialists are being trained. Many students come from other West African countries because Ghana has good facilities for training.

One aspect of medicine which seems to be ignored is dentistry: There are only 38 dentists in the health service; apparently most Ghanaians visit one only as a last resort.

S.M.

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GHANA 20

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Ghana became the first African State south of the Sahara to attain independence on March 6, 1957. This article reviews the achievements of the country during the 20 years of independence.

GHANA: 20 YEARS OF INDEPENDENCE

On 6th March, 1957, the Gold Coast was declared an independent State and was renamed Ghana after one of the ancient Sudanic Empires which flourished between the 4th and the 10th centuries.

Though the Gold Coast Colony came into existence in 1874, so reluctant was the British Government to increase its responsibilities that in spite of the pressure of the merchants and missionaries, Ashanti and the areas further north were left uncolonised. The British declared the North a protectorate in 1898 and Ashanti was conquered in 1901. As a result of economic, social and political developments, certain classes emerged which became increasingly conscious of the glaring absurdities, oppressiveness and limitations of the colonial regime and started political movements which agitated for participation in the administration of the country.

Consequently, there arose the need for a social change. More elementary and secondary schools as well as training colleges were opened over the years. This led to a corresponding increase in the number of the educated Africans who as civil servants, school teachers, etc., became less and less satisfied with their opportunities under the colonial administration.

Moreover, as there were limited facilities for university education until 1948, more and more people went to overseas particularly to Britain and the United States for further education. These scholars became more and more conscious of the vast difference in the political and social situations between their home country and their host countries. Some of them did not only study socialist and Marxist literature which condemned colonialism but also studied the techniques of modern party organisation and strategy. Joseph Smith and J. Hutton Brew, the first Secretary of the Fante Confederacy formed principally by the Chiefs of Abura and Anomabu, were the first of a long line of such nationalists who ended with Dr. J. B. Danquah and Dr. Kwame Nkrumah under whose leadership Ghana achieved self government.

The proclamation of Ghana as a Republic in July, 1960, led to many positive achievements. The country, though still an active member of the Commonwealth, initiated and participated in many Pan-African activities towards the decolonisation of Africa.

If Nkrumah had permitted a fair and open General Election to be held for the people's choice of government in 1964 and avoided many of the excesses of his regime, perhaps the incidence of military intervention would have been avoided. Instead, he proclaimed the country a one-party State and imposed Members of Parliament on many constituencies, in spite of the fact that open dissent had been smothering for some time.

SIGNIFICANT CONTRIBUTIONS

There were many positive aspects of Dr Nkrumah's 15 years' rule, and these have led to his posthumous rehabilitation of body and name. It is in an attempt to unify and reconcile the nation that the Government of the Supreme Military Council has taken steps to rehabilitate Nkrumah who, whatever his faults, made significant contributions to Ghana's political and economic progress.

Kwame Nkrumah could rightly be called the chief protagonist of modern Pan-Africanism. In April 1958, the year after independence, he convened the first ever African Heads of State Conference which was followed by the formation of the Ghana-Guinea Union, with Mali joining later. In July 1959, he visited late President Tubman of Liberia with whom he issued a joint Declaration of Principles for African Unity.

Other conferences he convened and hosted in Ghana, included the All African People's Conference of all political organisations held in December 1958; the All African Trade Union Preparatory Conference in November 1959; and a conference on Positive Action for Peace and Solidarity in Africa to condemn racism in Africa and the French nuclear tests in the Sahara in April 1960.

Nkrumah put Ghana on the world map as the lodestar of African emancipation and renaissance. He also played a leading role in the formation of the Organisation of African Unity (OAU).

At home, he tried, perhaps too quickly and not without mistakes to achieve economic and social reconstruction so as to provide a higher standard of living for the people as well as a welfare

State based on a "socialist pattern of society adapted to Ghanaian conditions".

FREE-FREE EDUCATION

Between 1951 and 1956, the Convention People Party (CPP) Government introduced free-free education for all primary and middle schoolchildren—the first of its kind in Africa. It undertook the construction of infrastructure of bridges and trunk roads as well as feeder roads to facilitate transportation of food produced in the rural areas to the urban centres. The Government also provided a base for industrialisation; the construction of the Tema harbour; the formation of the Black Star Shipping Line; the provision of modern office buildings, schools, colleges, hotels, hospitals, dispensaries and health clinics; the establishment of a free-free medical service, that is, from the treatment of simple ailments to the most sophisticated surgical operation; the provision of good drinking water in some of the rural areas and establishment of a national airline.

After independence, many changes were made to reflect the Ghanaian traditional way of life. For example: law school was built to study laws relevant to the society. The cocoa industry was re-organised and cocoa disease control measures intensified. In 1958, Ghana introduced its own bank notes. The Ghana Commercial Bank had earlier been established to augment the operations of the two foreign banks, namely, Barclays Bank and the British Bank of West Africa (now Standard Bank) which had dominated banking operations for over half a century. The Bank of Ghana was established in 1957. A black American college mate of Dr. Nkrumah founded the State Insurance Corporation which is now the largest insurance organisation in the country.

The Civil Service and the Armed Forces were indigenised. The Cape Coast University, the third university, was built in 1962. Today, there are two medical schools in Accra and Kumasi.

With the assistance of a consortium of British, American, Canadian, Italian and Ghanaian capital and expertise, Kwame Nkrumah brought the gigantic Volta River hydro-electric project to realisation in 1960. Today, the Volta River Project supplies energy not only to Ghana but also two neighbouring countries, namely, the Republics of Togo and Benin.

However, all was not well with Ghana after 1960. Dr Nkrumah's Government was overthrown by the Armed Forces and the Police on 24th February, 1966.

NATIONAL LIBERATION COUNCIL

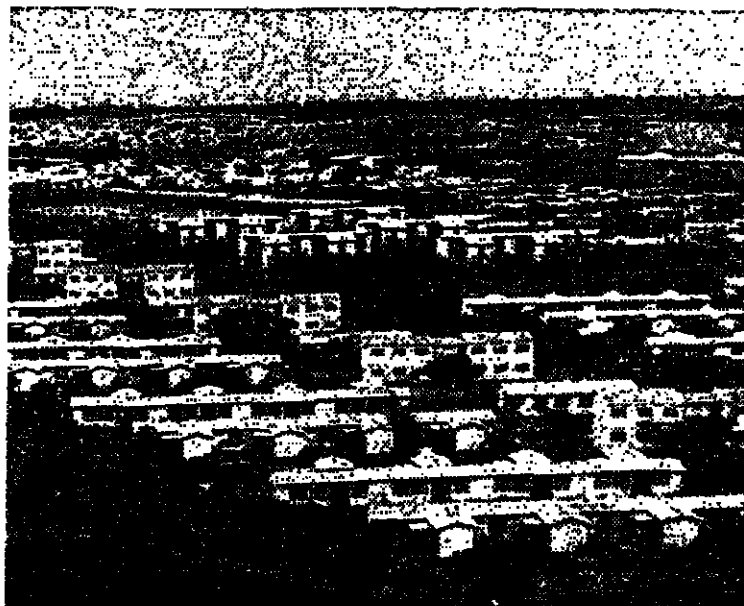
The post Nkrumah Army-cum-Police administration, that is, the National Liberation Council, true to its word, after three years in office, handed over power to an elected civilian government in October 1969. Under the Progress Party Government, with Dr. K. A. Busia as Prime Minister, Ghana's economic position worsened. The Government introduced a devaluation of the currency by almost 50% in December 1972. It therefore became evident that the Busia Government had no immediate and effective solutions to the economic problems of the country.

The Busia regime claimed to have run the country on Western democratic lines. However, he not only interfered with the Judiciary but also has no regard for the rule of law. Busia was soon to dismiss the Editor of a State-owned newspaper, for criticising his policy of dialogue with South Africa.

The question of dialogue was then topical in Africa and the United Nations, especially when the British Prime Minister, Edward Heath, resumed the sale of arms to South Africa in contravention of the ban imposed by his predecessor. Ghana lost its honoured position as a frontline State in the struggle against colonialism and racism.

Colonel Ignatius Kutu Acheampong toppled the Busia regime after 27 months in office on 13th January, 1972. It was unexpected but not surprising. He set up the National Redemption Council, again composed of the Armed Forces and the Police. The Government was renamed the Supreme Military Council in October last year.

Under the Acheampong Government, Ghana has been playing her traditionally active and frontline role in Africa in concert with other members of the Organisation of African Unity. In this regard, the Government continues to support measures against apartheid and to give assistance to freedom movements in Zimbabwe and Namibia. Ghana's prominent role in the liberation struggle is clearly manifested by the number of nationalist leaders who have recently visited the country.



2 Years of Independence

and written by The Ministry of Information, Accra

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Due to the policy of positive neutrality and uncompromising opposition to racism and colonialism in all its manifestations, Ghana continues to enjoy the friendship and respect of freedom-loving and progressive countries all over the world.

POLICY OF SELF-RELIANCE

Through its policy of self-reliance, the Acheampong Government has made considerable progress in restructuring the economy in order to speed up the construction of development projects for the effective transformation of the country. The dominant feature of the Government's economic policy has been the "Operation Feed Yourself" programme which was introduced soon after it came into office. As an indication of the priority the Government has given to the agricultural sector, a total of over C220 million was voted for agricultural development during the past five years. Progress has been very satisfactory. In 1976, the 4th phase of the Operation, code-named "Operation Feed Your Industries", was launched. This places special emphasis on the production of agricultural raw materials both to feed the local factories and for export. The success of "Operation Feed Yourself" has made Ghanaians realise and, more importantly, become confident that they can produce enough food to feed themselves. To avoid dependence on rainfall for agriculture, a wide range of irrigation schemes have been embarked upon.

While taking steps to diversify agriculture, the country's main foreign exchange earner, cocoa, has continued to receive special attention. In this regard, the Government has embarked on two major projects estimated to cost a total of C40 million to rehabilitate the industry. The funds for these are being provided by the World Bank in partnership with the Government. As a means of encouraging the farmers to increase their cocoa production, a total amount of C48.5 million has been utilised to subsidise various agricultural inputs. In addition, the Government has increased the producer price of cocoa to C20 per load, C12 more than it was in 1972.

The Acheampong Government has devoted considerable attention to the general development of the country with the objective of achieving total national development, so as to ensure that every Region gets its fair share of social amenities. Over the past five years, the sum of over C1 billion has been spent on development projects throughout the country. This is the highest amount ever spent by any Government on development since the country achieved its independence in 1957. To consolidate development efforts, a new Five-Year Development Plan has been launched this financial year.

The country's new educational system aims at diversifying the formal academic courses to include more technical courses. The higher institutions have also been directed to address themselves seriously to preparing graduates to meet the manpower requirements of the country. The establishment of a second Medical School at the University of Science and Technology in Kumasi in 1975 is an example. Steps have been taken to ensure that an increasing number of pupils from primary schools gain admission into the secondary schools. In this connection, the new educational system which has been formulated, will come into operation in 1980.

MEDICAL FACILITIES

Over the past five years, the Government has provided the urban areas with health centres and 87 health posts have been built in rural areas throughout the country. Regional hospitals have also been modernised and extended to cater for the increasing number of patients. Emphasis is being placed on public health to a greater degree than ever before.

The provision of water, especially for the rural communities, has been of paramount concern to the Government. Since 1972, the Government has spent an average of C20 million a year on providing this public utility. As already mentioned, the Govern-

ment has laid emphasis on providing abundant food to feed the people, and to this end, the feeder roads programme has been intensified. A total of C63 million has been spent on the programme since its inception.

Although Ghana has been politically independent since March 6, 1957, one is bound to admit that the achievement of economic independence during the first 15 years has proved very difficult. The reasons for this failure were attributable to the forces of neo-colonialism and the failure of earlier regimes to deal effectively with the new menace.

Fortunately, since 13th January, 1972, the challenges posed by neo-colonialism have been squarely met by the declaration of an "economic war" and the participation exercise in the extractive industries as well as in the purely trading and commercial enterprises. As a further weapon in this war, Ghanaians, aided by State-power, are now encouraged to ascend the commanding heights of the economy as was never before possible.

UNION GOVERNMENT

In the political field, an Ad Hoc Committee has been set up to collate the views of the public on the establishment of a Union Government, based on the principle of national unity. It is hoped that the Union Government will not be run on partisan politics which, in the past, encouraged tribalism, rancour, hostilities and other social evils among Ghanaians.

The pragmatic policies now pursued by the Government of the Supreme Military Council have achieved unprecedented progress over the past five years.

These should be an indication of the Government's determination to pursue even more vigorously, its objective of building a happy and prosperous nation through self-reliance in pursuance of the first tenet of the National Charter—"One Nation, One People, One Destiny".

GENERAL ACHEAMPONG

This review would not be complete without a brief account of the young General who has presided over the destiny of Ghana during a quarter of these 20 years of independence. A devout Christian and singularly devoted in his faith in God, he rose from the bottom rank to his present position of General by sheer dint of perseverance and devotion to duty.

Before enlisting in the Army, he had been a teacher for some years in the rural areas and had learnt the ways of his students as well as those of the simple folk amongst whom he lived and worked.

Coming from these two professions, it is easy to understand his insistence on discipline and methodology in all things and at all times. He has instilled into his people discipline, patriotic nationalism and self-confidence. He has opened up new heights to which the people may ascend in dignity like the proverbial eagles that Ghanaians are.

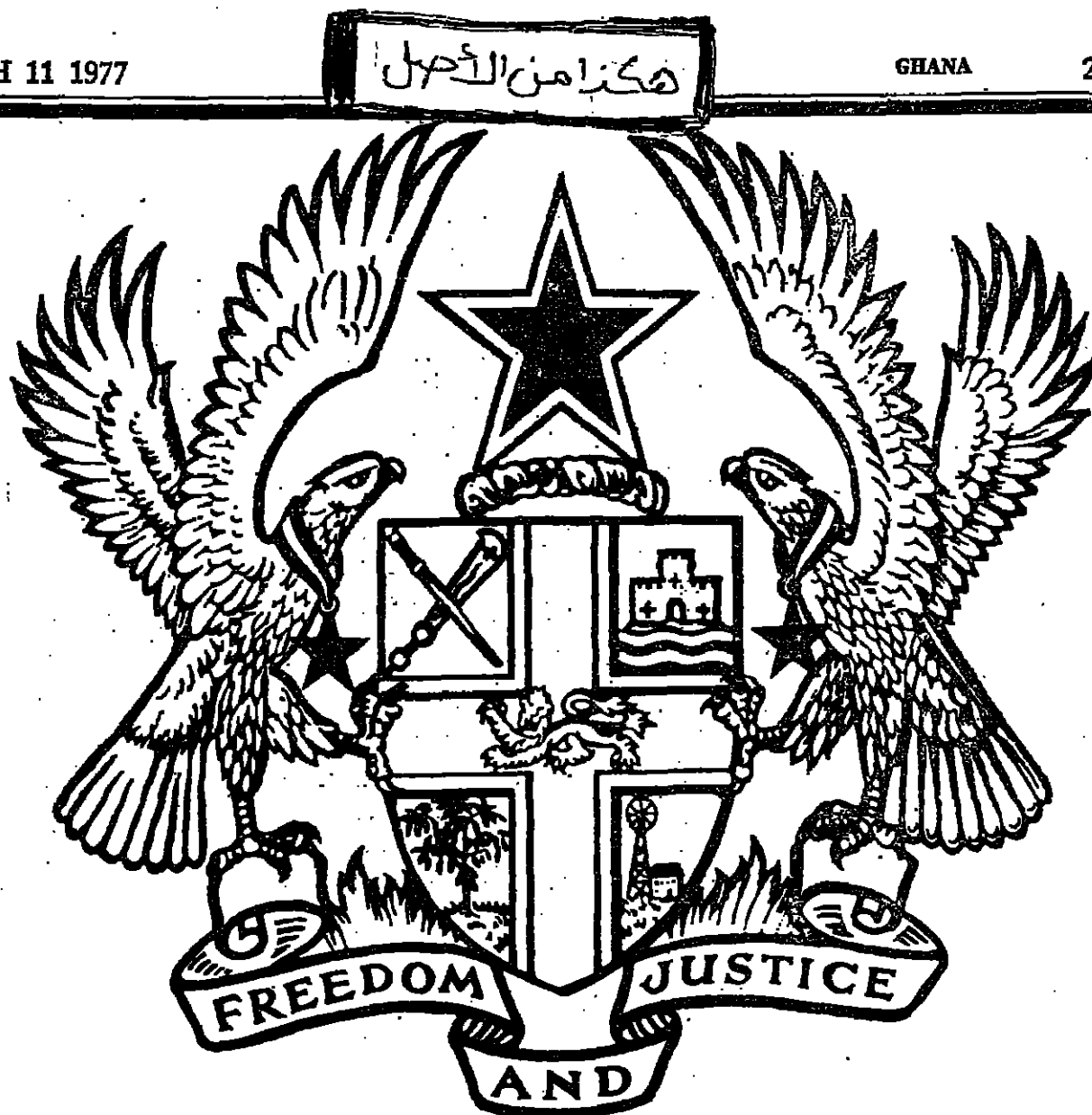
General Acheampong has emerged as a much respected leader of his people and as a statesman of renown. Gone are the histrionics of Nkrumah; and gone also are the hyperboles of exaggeration indulged in by Busia and his intellectuals.

Ghana now proudly boasts of a leader who, in his own quiet but determined and soldierly ways, is truly practical. Though the General, like other African leaders, appreciates the values of socialism, he also understands that in a developing country such as Ghana, there is some need for a guided private sector.

During the past five years of General Acheampong's rule, Ghana has leaped ahead in all spheres. This is a great achievement for a man many thought would not survive for a year.

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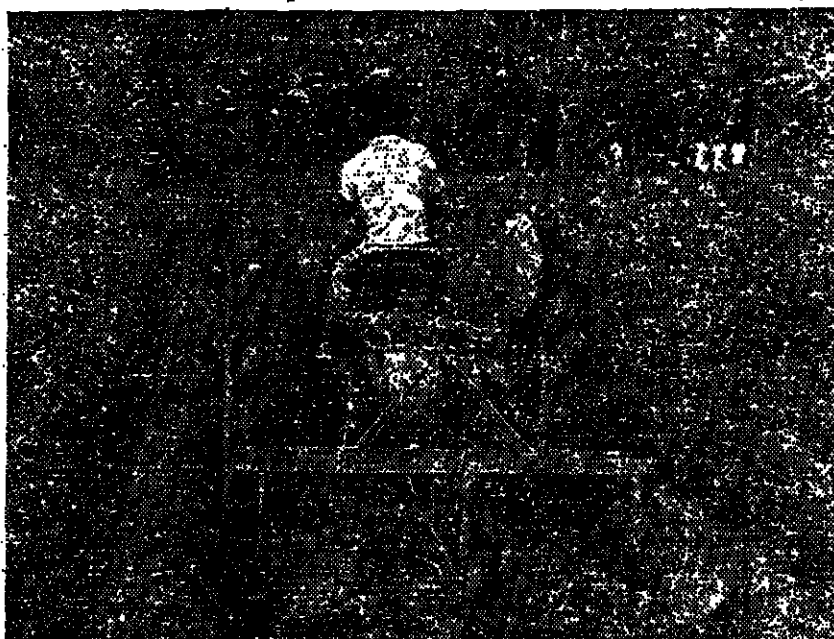
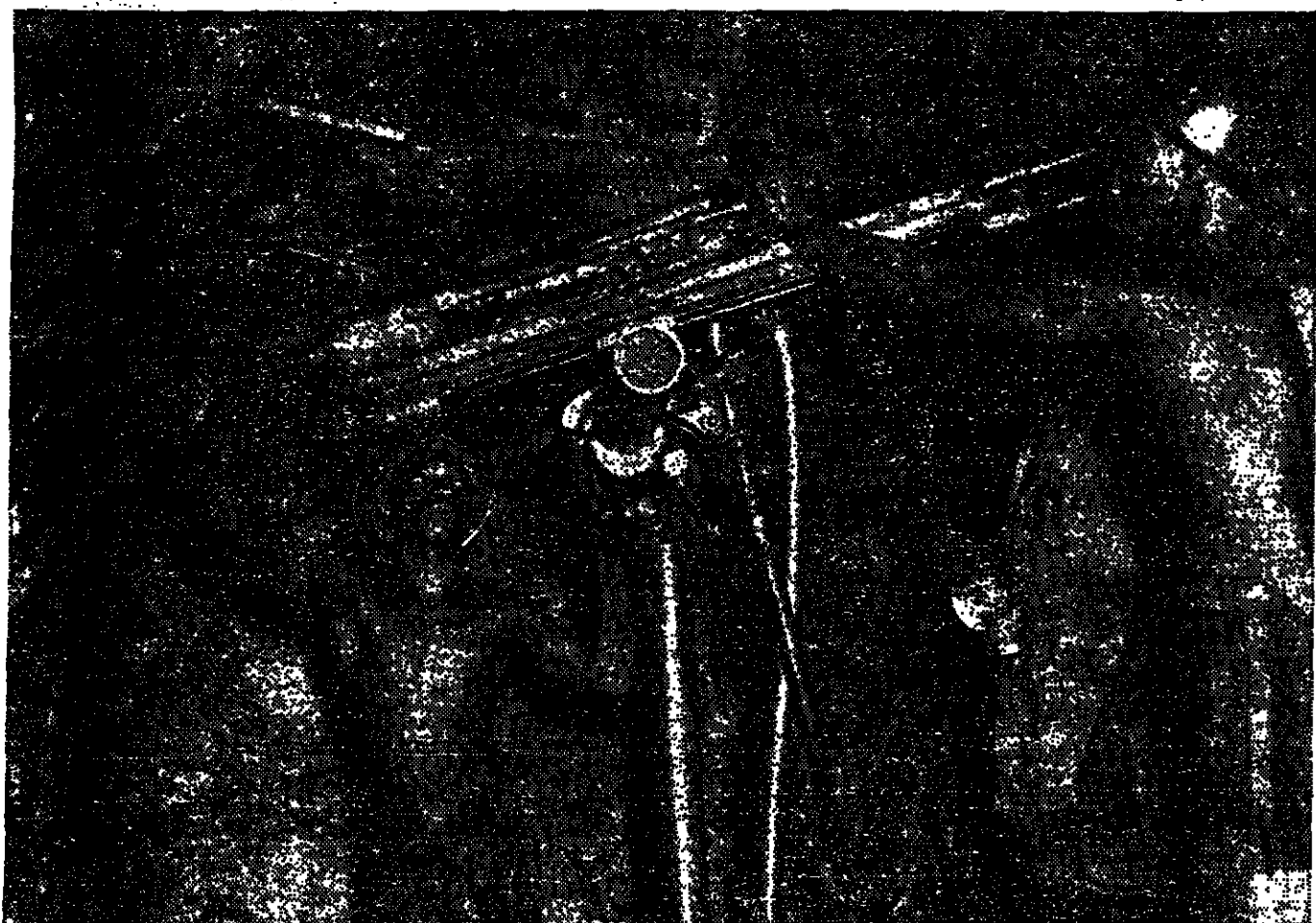
1 General I. K. Acheampong, Head of State and Chairman of the Supreme Military Council; 2 Ghana Coat-of-Arms; 3 Harvesting Cocoa; 4 Akosombo Dam; 5 Cotton spinning mill at the Tema Textiles Factory; 6 Ghanaian soldiers on parade in Accra; 7 Houses for the people; 8 Traditional dancing; 9 Mining; 10 Otomfuo the Asantehene sitting in State; 11 Made in Ghana aluminium cooking utensils; 12 Tapping rubber; 13 Mechanised Farming; 14 Timber logs awaiting shipment.



COAT-OF-ARMS OF GHANA

The Coat-of-Arms of Ghana consists of a shield divided into four quarters by a green St George's Cross rimmed with gold. In the top left-hand quarter is a crossed linguist stick and ceremonial sword on a blue background, representing local administration. In the top right-hand quarter is a heraldic castle on a heraldic sea with a light blue background, representing national government. In the bottom two quarters will be found a cocoa tree and a mine shaft, representing the wealth of the country. In the centre of the green St George's Cross is a gold lion, representing the continued link between Ghana and the Commonwealth. Surmounting the shield is

a black five-pointed star rimmed with gold, representing the lodestar of African freedom, and this star stands on a wreath of the national colours—red (to commemorate those who died in the struggle for independence), gold (to represent the mineral wealth of the country) and green (to represent the rich forests and farms of the country)—which again stands on the top of the shield. Under the shield is the motto "FREEDOM AND JUSTICE". The supporters of the Coat-of-Arms are two eagles, coloured gold, and round each eagle's neck hangs another black star suspended from a ribbon in Ghana colours.



Gold Coast lives up to its name

by Susan Morgan

Ghana's former name, the Gold Coast, indicates how closely gold has been linked with its history. In the fifth and sixth centuries BC the Saracens and Phoenicians traded in gold dust on the West African coast and transported it by caravan to the Mediterranean.

In 1873 Pierre Bonnat, known as the father of gold mining, took out a concession in the Tarkwa area, and this began the mining of gold-bearing rock as it exists today.

At the turn of the nineteenth and twentieth centuries a wave of speculation in gold ensued. Between 1898 and 1901 about

400 companies with a capital of some £40m were formed to work concessions. Though not one of them still exists, gold and industrial diamonds together account for 80 per cent of Ghana's mineral production today.

Other important minerals exported are bauxite (of which Ghana has substantial reserves) and manganese. After cocoa and timber, minerals form the next most important group of foreign exchange earners—though at prices less volatile than the former. Together, minerals account for about 14 per cent of exports.

The main gold-producing region lies between Tarkwa in the west and Asofo in the east. Traditionally, the Ashanti were always associated with gold and used it for ornaments. The principal

goldmines are at Obuasi (owned by the Ashanti Goldfields Corporation and reputedly one of the richest mines in Africa), Bibiani, Prestea, Konongo, Dunkwa and Tarkwa. These last four mines, formerly privately owned, now make up the State Mining Corporation.

The mine at Tarkwa produced 55,000 oz of gold in 1975-76 and that at Prestea 100,000 oz. At Dunkwa, where alluvial gold is recovered, dredging operations produced 16,487 oz in the same year. There have been difficulties at Dunkwa because two dredgers sank, but new ones are on order and should arrive in April or May.

The gold produced in Ghana is of particularly fine quality and does not need to be refined to make it work-

able, as this would render it brittle.

Higher prices rather than increased production have been responsible for increased revenue. Thus in 1970, 703,900 fine troy oz were produced for a value of 25.8m cedis. In 1975, though output fell to 525,900 fine troy oz, this was worth 96m cedis. Production in 1976 was marginally higher than that of the previous year though still some way below 1974 output.

Diamonds have been turned to profit in Ghana since 1920. They are mostly small and of commercial rather than gem quality, and production consists mainly of industrial stones. The chief source is the alluvial mining region in the Brim valley, though smaller quan-

tities of diamonds are also found in the alluvial goldfields of Tarkwa and Dunkwa. The main Ghanaian producer is Ghana Consolidated Diamonds which operates the Akwadia mine. This mine had previously been worked by the British-owned consolidated African Selected Trust which had been mining there since 1924 and is still responsible for technical management. It owns 55 per cent of the equity of the new company. The diamond industry employs about 2,500 workers but there are only 13 expatriates in management.

Unlike gold, industrial diamonds have dropped in price slightly. Thus in 1975 production of 2,328,000 carats earned 13.9m cedis while in 1976 slightly lower

output of 2,306,000 carats earned 13.1m cedis. The Diamond Marketing Corporation of Ghana is responsible for grading, valuing and processing diamonds, and also purchases diamonds produced locally.

Manganese exports registered a 28 per cent increase in 1976 over figures for an equivalent period a year earlier. In 1975-76 earnings from manganese exports reached \$17.9m. Production and revenue from exports have increased steadily in the past few years, 392,000 tons being produced in 1970 and 408,000 tons in 1975. The target for 1976-77 is for export revenue of \$22m.

The National Manganese Corporation, which now has sole charge of production of this mineral in Ghana, has plans to diversify produc-

tion. A geologist is leading a team to investigate the manganese zone around the mine at Nsua near Tarkwa. Attempts are also being made to interest foreign companies in the development of this mine, and allocations of 363,745,000 cedis for the purchase of capital equipment and 971,745,000 cedis for the purchase of spare parts have been made.

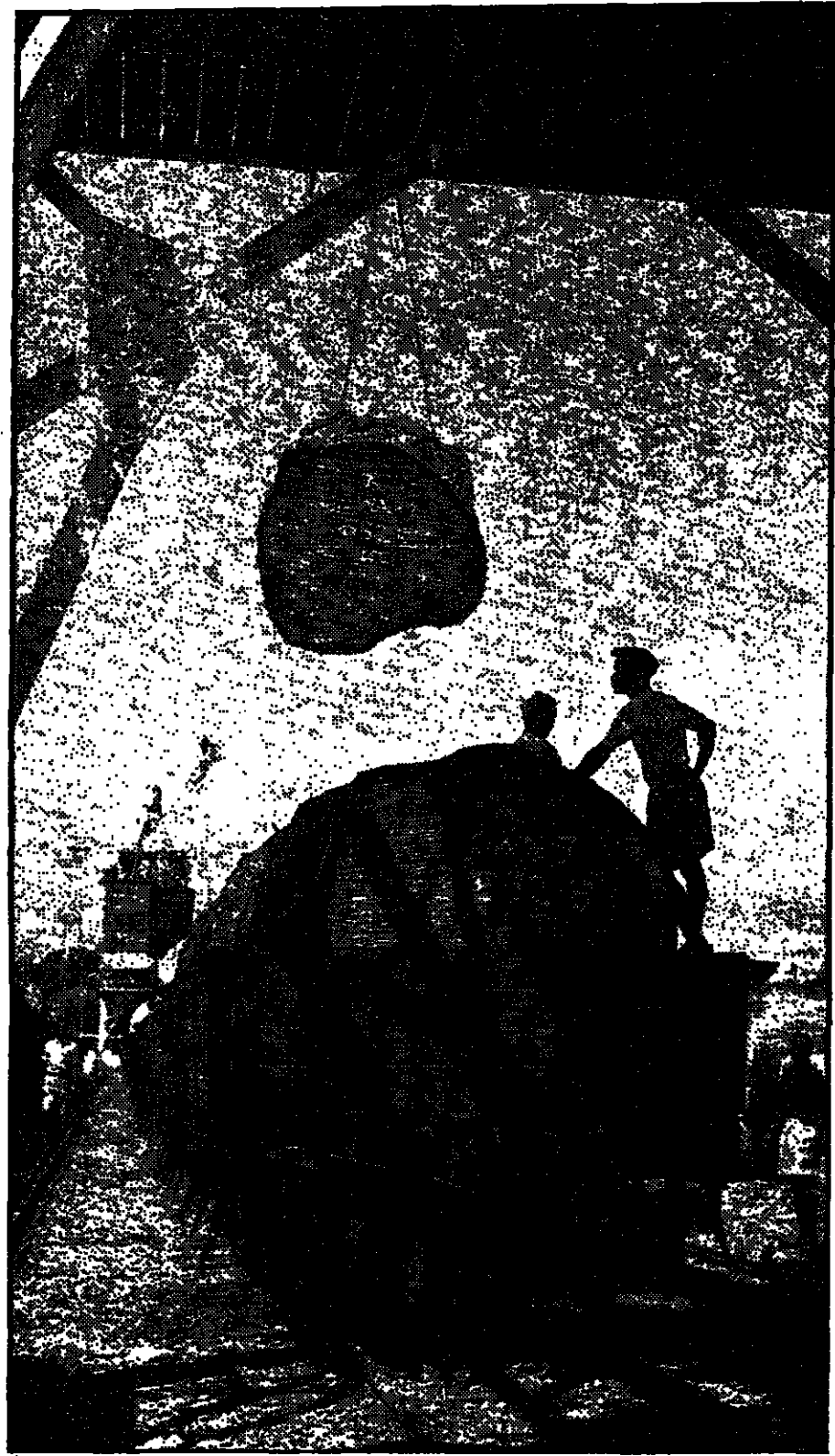
At present the manganese ore mined in Ghana is high grade, mostly of metallurgical quality, but plans to deal with lower grade ores have recently been made public and foreign investment has been acquired to realize this project.

Ghana also has substantial deposits of bauxite, the four main deposits being the Yenshin group, the Kibi

group, the Serwim group and the Ejumana group. The producing company is the Ghana Bauxite Company in which the British Aluminium Company has a 45 per cent interest. Much bauxite mined at the main deposit at Awaso in the Western Region is exported to British Aluminium's alumina plant at Burnt Island in Scotland. Bauxite production dropped slightly in the first six months of 1976 compared with a similar period a year earlier and is much lower than in 1974. There are plans for Ghana to use its bauxite to develop an aluminium smelter fuelled by hydroelectric power at the Volta River Project. At present input for the smelter is in the form of imported alumina.

Besides exploiting these resources, preliminary studies into the practicability of operations at the open-pit iron ore deposits are being carried out to develop them for export.

One of the main reasons for Ghana's present economic difficulties has been the increase in world oil prices. The country has hopes of finding oil. Onshore prospects are particularly promising, as traces of oil have already been found in the area close to the Togo border—a region some consider may be a little sensitive because of the question of secession, now apparently resolved or at least quiet. In any case, these deposits have not yet been shown to be commercially practical. Offshore exploration for oil is also taking place, but nothing has yet been discovered.



by Patrick Gilkes

Ghana's timber industry has traditionally been concerned both with local consumption and processing as well as with export production. Timber is the country's second largest foreign exchange earner and, though there was a time when output was confined to the more than mahogany in round log form, Ghana now exports a wide range of species both as round logs and as sawn timber.

Mahogany has been joined by such woods as walnut, maple, and oak, all of which are suitable for interior work, decorative veneers and furniture—and by other varieties. Round logs still remain the main sector for exports both in value and quantity, but there is a growing consciousness that they are the most susceptible to economic fluctuation. In 1975, export of round logs was some 85,000 tons up on the previous year but earnings rose by a mere 3m cedis.

The industry has been handicapped by the 1974 slump in prices and in demand; and there is still a glut in the European markets which are Ghana's main customers. This has encouraged a move to other markets in the Middle East and Africa. The Government has been especially keen on the latter and has set up regional timber depots, one near the Togo border and another at Bolgatanga in the north to supply Upper Volta. Trade has, however, still shown a downward trend.

Since the peak of 1973-74 when both earnings (at 130m cedis) and production (73 million cu ft) reached record levels, the 1975 production figure of 47 million cu ft was the lowest for five years. There is now a clear trend towards concentration on sawn and treated timber, veneers and plywoods which have more value a ton.

As an exporter put it: "As far as I'm concerned, there's no doubt that veneer is where the future lies." The relative values of veneer and plywood a ton underline his point. Veneers for export averaged 445 cedis a ton in 1974-75;

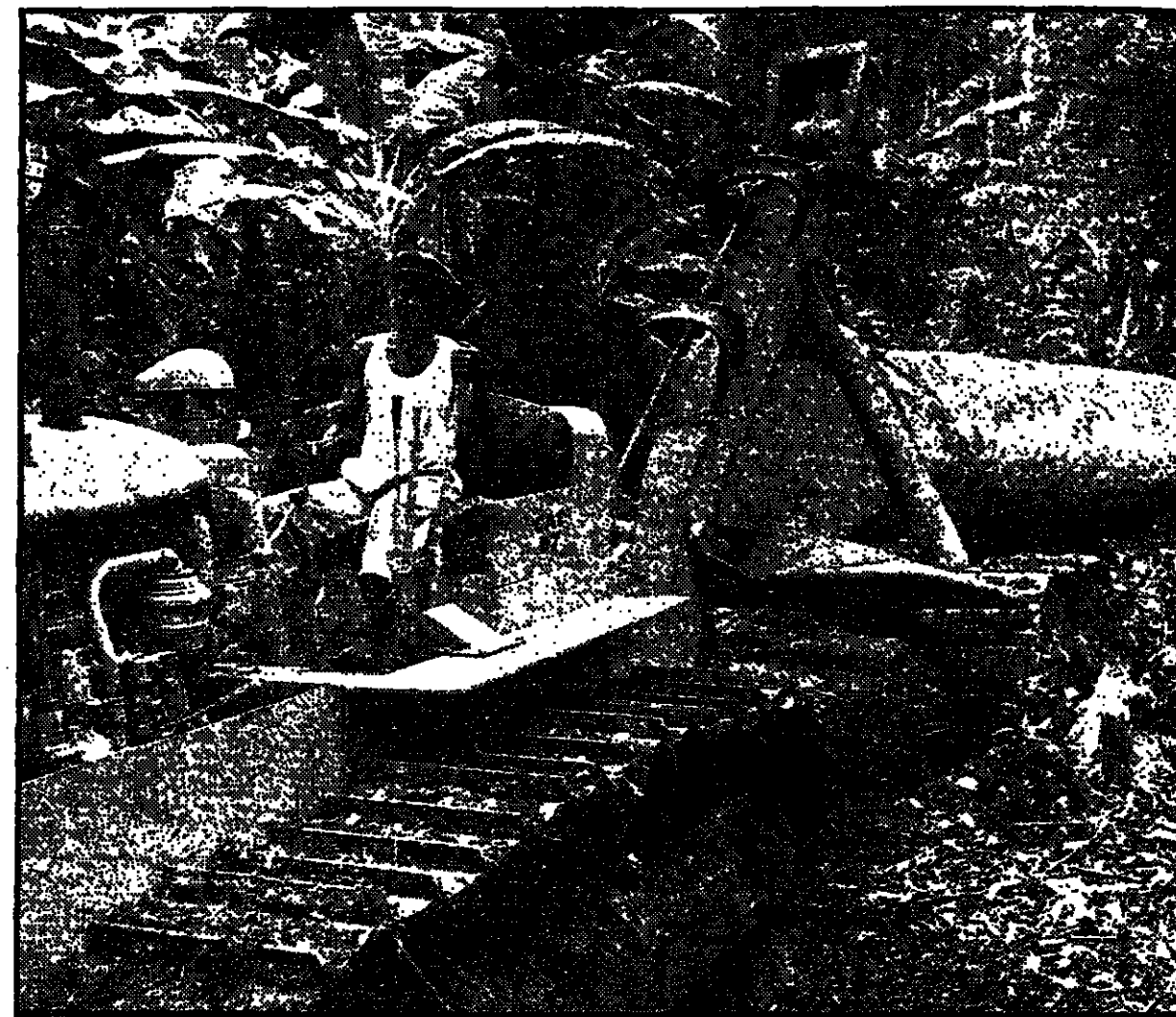
plywoods fetched more than 850 cedis a ton. This compares with an average of 144 cedis a ton for round logs and 287 cedis a ton for sawn timber.

The Government has always insisted on maintaining the high quality of Ghana's timber exports. Trees grow longer and therefore bigger than they do for example in the adjacent Ivory Coast, and the logs of larger diameter are particularly suitable for high quality veneers. The Ghana Timber Marketing Board (GTMB) which is responsible for the industry, is determined to maintain standards. More than half the 1975 production went into local sawmills for treatment and the trend is being encouraged. There is every reason to believe the GTMB is contemplating banning, or at least limiting, the export of some 20 hardwood species to encourage production of local veneer and plywood. There are at present four veneer mills, and another three are being constructed. One is a 28m cedi project, West German financed, a wood processing factory which will employ 1,500 workers.

The move towards veneers and plywoods is not without its difficulties, however. Despite the dozen or so plywood mills, there is a shortage of plywood at present, both for local use and for export, caused not by any lack of timber but by the difficulty in obtaining the necessary glues from abroad. Import licences are hard to get, not only are delays common but it is a frequent complaint that the licences are diverted to less important needs.

The Government's recent allocation of import licences to the various sectors has led to expectations of an improvement in the industry's lot—some 60m cedis has been allocated to timber, and wood processing equipment was particularly mentioned. Other allocations have been made, more generally, for machinery and spare parts, and timber producers are hopeful this may ease the critical shortage of spare parts for their own industry. According to the latest official publication, only 51 of the country's 84 sawmills are operating fully—39 per cent are immobilized by breakdowns in machinery.

Timber industry grows in importance



Hauling logs out of the forest and, left, unloading them at Takoradi harbour.

Timber is one of the better regulated sectors of the Ministry of Trade and Tourism. Controls are not exercised through production but all timber companies must have at least 40 per cent Ghanaian participation or, in the case of larger companies, 55 per cent state control in accordance with the investment policy decree which was implemented on January 1 this year. The GTMB has only one saw mill and although it has subsidiaries registered as exporters it does not itself export. It does, however, register all exporters of timber and their agents. It also insists that all contracts must be cleared with it in advance. It can and does

turn them down if it is not satisfied with the prices. By an agreement made with the Timber Trade Federation in 1975, the GTMB does not review contracts after its initial fortnight's consideration.

This arrangement arose out of GTMB unilateral activity in 1973 when, at a time of rising prices, it abruptly insisted on renegotiating contracts to take advantage. This action caused difficulties for exporters. It has not occurred and although there are some irritations the system does seem to work.

The GTMB has been criticized for some of its other activities. It has been accused of discrimination over import licences, over

the issuing of loans and over the distribution of open contracts. There is little doubt that some of these criticisms are deserved. The board's vetting of agents does not always meet with approval and exporters are unhappy with the GTMB's pricing policies, finding them too inflexible. "It thinks only of the price but there are other considerations," one exporter said.

Deserved though these complaints may be, there is no doubt that the GTMB can look at the timber industry with satisfaction, since it has continued to expand and moving into more profitable areas. Reserves of timber are still sufficient. Ghana's

forest zone covers 33,000 sq miles and there are permanent forest reserves of 6,482 sq miles besides another 3,400 sq miles of reserved forests in the savannah areas. At least another 30,000 sq miles of savannah woodlands are reserved.

There is, too, awareness that timber is a wasting asset unless replanting is carried out. A replanting scheme was begun in 1970-71 to supplement natural resources and there are well over 30,000 hectares of indigenous and exotic species now planted. As the present trend towards more local processing clearly is going to intensify, the timber industry looks set to be an important growth area in the near future.

Press under effective self censorship

Ghana's media have enjoyed a long and chequered history which stretches back into the nineteenth century. The first newspapers were laboriously written by hand and circulated among the intelligentsia—rather like *samizdat* material in the Soviet Union. One journalistic enterprise to become famous, and cause a good deal of unease among British colonial officials, was a witty column called *The Owl*, which appeared in *The Echo* in which these colonials were satirized and caricatured.

Although there were a number of newspapers flourishing in Ghana before independence they resembled nothing so much as eighteenth-century British political broadsheets both in form and content—and the printing was generally appalling. They possessed considerable energy and radicalism, however.

Ghana's first really modern newspaper, the *Daily Graphic*, emerged in 1950, one of a chain of West African newspapers set up by the *Daily Mirror* group based in London. It is still going strong and has a circulation of 162,000. Its stable companion, the *Weekly Mirror*, sells about 110,000 copies a week. To a visitor, one of the surprising things about Ghana's newspapers is how many there are for what is a

fairly small population of 8,500,000. There are three other daily newspapers as well as the *Daily Graphic*—the *Ghanaian Times*, the *People's Evening News* and *The Pioneer* (the last two independent and the first based in Accra). There are five weeklies, including *The Mirror*, *Weekly Spectator*, *Business Weekly*, and *The Palaver Tribune*. When I asked officials from the Ministry of Information if they replied approvingly that it was government sponsored, not controlled.

What emerged clearly from my interviews was the existence of a very effective form of self-censorship—sort of mutual understanding between the Government and the press. One journalist said: "After all we have had some form of censorship here for 20 years: we know what we can write and what we cannot. A common criticism (and not unique to Ghana) came from younger journalists who felt their editors (and the editorials) to be too timid and cautious."

Professional criticism was that journalists tended to pick up too many stories from agencies rather than finding their own. There was a lack of general agreement among journalists:

some felt quite happy with their situation and unconcerned about having been shifted to safer journalistic jobs, mainly in public relations, for not having followed the official line sufficiently.

This said, however, that the visitor is impressed by the number of critical, investigative and exposure stories—though not generally on politics. For instance, the *Daily Graphic* ran a story on February 2 "on the abuses of rice production entitled 'Are we on the right path?'".

The author says that many full-time farmers are bitter about the way combine harvesters are distributed. They claim that top civil servants and army officers are given preferential treatment by those who control the equipment. After describing the rice supply as "critical" the author points out that though the landing price of good quality rice is 25 cedis for 100lb the government rice mills charge 60 cedis for roughly the same amount. Low cattle production is also indignantly attacked for failing to play its part in the green revolution.

Perhaps the most sensational revelation in the press a few months ago was that Ghana's main teaching hospital at Korle had seven out of eight operating

theatres out of action because of shortage of spare parts. The revelation achieved its aim—the Government was horrified and immediate efforts were made to rectify the situation.

Much space is devoted in the press to the "enemies of the revolution", pilfering and hoarding. A recent edition of the *Daily Graphic* carried an emotional and indignant editorial on how pilferers at the Obuasi gold mines were "sabotaging the Ghanaian revolution" and calls for tighter security measures at the mines.

According to a feature in the *Ghanaian Times*, Ghanaians expect a lot from their journalists. They are critical of journalists who are "pampered by the Government and praising all its actions," but it says: "when journalists are sacked for criticizing the Government no one comes to their aid."

At the annual press conference with the president, General Acheampong, in January, questions were often pointed. Thus Mr. Ovi Poku of the *People's Evening News* asked why two members of the Government were removed for involving themselves in the Briscoe affair. They were promoted before they left and retired on their salaries. He said there was "a public outcry over this and asked why this action was taken. Gen-

eral Acheampong replied that officers were no longer retired on their pay as had been the case in the past. By far the liveliest newspaper in Ghana, it seems to me, is Chris Asher's *the Palaver Tribune*—which bears its motto "better to publish and be damned than to mislead the people". He combines a steady and at times indigestible mix of the sensational, the bawdy and the gossip with some of the best investigative journalism in Ghana. Thus while one headline runs "Men's organs shrink after eating 'Thal oranges'" (including the remarkable information that people are even afraid to step on orange peel in the street) and another asks rhetorically "Does honesty pay in Ghana?" the author concludes from "unimpeachable sources" that the two former members of the Government have not been assured by a source that satisfactory arrangements had been made by the two.

How, he asked, could they have paid back the money and argued that "mathematics would have to live 200 years before they could pay back the full amount." His "regional glimpses" hark back, perhaps, to the famous satirical column

"The Owl"; certainly any Fleet Street gossip column pales at its side. He speaks disturbingly well-informed. Other Ghanaian publications include the Ghana News Agency, the main source of domestic and foreign news, and a number of other periodicals, including *Women's Love Stories*, *The Ghana Review* and so on. The Ghana Broadcasting Corporation has three channels and broadcasts in the six main Ghanaian languages as well as English.

Three television broadcasts in Upper Region will be devoted to helping people improve their farming techniques. GBC also has an external service and broadcasts in English, French, Hausa, Portuguese, Swahili and Arabic. Ghana Television, which started in 1965, has two studios in Accra and four transmitters. There are plans to cover a wider area of the country with a television network and there are plans to introduce colour. At present more than 55 per cent of material is local. General Acheampong makes frequent appearances and revolutionary broadcasts and slogans appear frequently. There are approximately 33,000 television sets in Ghana but 660,000 viewers—20 viewers a set, although the figure for radio is only six listeners a set.

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Bank paves way to cheaper borrowing with 11pc MLR

By John Whitmore
Finance Correspondent

Cheaper borrowing was taken a stage further yesterday with the Bank of England announcing that it was now ready to see a rather lower level of interest rates and Barclays cutting its base lending rate from 11½ to 10½ per cent. Other clearing banks are expected to follow suit today, but there is still no indication that the building societies are prepared to make any immediate cut in their rates.

The Bank's decision, which was signalled by a cut in its minimum lending rate from 12 to 11 per cent, largely reflects the continued easing in money market conditions over the past few days. It follows a period of some six weeks during which the Bank has tried to moderate the fall in interest rates by holding MLR at 12 per cent irrespective of market conditions.

At the same time, however, the authorities may also have

been influenced by the latest banking statistics published this week. These indicated a further sharp contradiction in the money supply and flat demand from industry for fresh funds.

Barclays' decision to cut its lending and deposit rates came shortly after the Bank's announcement on MLR. The cut in the bank's base rate means that the cost of lending for blue chip borrowers comes down to 11½ per cent, while the cost of overdrafts will fall to a range of 13½-15½ per cent.

While cutting its base lending rate by one point to 10½ per cent, however, Barclays has also widened its "margin" to 4 per cent by lowering deposit rates by 1½ points to 6½ per cent.

In part this is because there is no pressing need to attract new funds at the moment, but it also provides a buffer against the lower profitability that comes when rates fall. Barclays produced the lowest rise in

profits last year among the clearing banks, and it also pointed out yesterday that it operated on a 4 per cent margin for much of last spring and summer.

It may be that nervousness over the appropriate margin was one of the main reasons why the other clearing banks failed to come to any quick decisions yesterday. The banks are highly sensitive to the possibility of political criticism over their levels of profitability.

The sharp cut in deposit rates and the further fall in general money market rates should, however, be a great boon to the building societies. Against gross rates of 6½ per cent on a Barclays deposit account and around 11 per cent on large sums deposited in the money market, the building societies' rate to investors stand at 7½ per cent net, equivalent to 12 per cent gross.

The Building Societies Association is, in fact, holding its monthly meeting today, but

even the latest fall in interest rates seems unlikely to move them to offer any speedy relief to borrowers.

The attitude of the societies recently has consistently been that the priority is not to lower rates but to improve the flow of funds into the societies and thus to increase the amount of mortgage finance they can make available.

Mr Raymond Potter, chairman of the Halifax Building Society and present chairman of the BSA, said yesterday that "we would like to restore lending to what it was last year". This would mean lending of some £5,000m (against recent forecasts of under £3,000m) and require a net monthly inflow of some £300m. The recent inflow is believed to have been of the order of £200m—though that is a considerable improvement on the mere £27m that came in last December.

Financial Editor, page 29

Third plant in Plessey occupation

Warnings from the management of Plessey Telecommunications that workers taking part in factory occupations on Merseyside risk losing their right to redundancy compensation failed to stop workers at a third plant joining in the protest action yesterday.

Senior management staff are now locked out of three of the company's factories at Kirby, Speke and Edge Lane, Liverpool, as a result of the occupations by three white collar unions, APEX, ASTMS and TASS.

The protest action follows the company's announcement last week of 4,000 redundancies in various parts of the country because of a reduction in Post Office orders for telephone exchange equipment.

Two Merseyside factories, its factory at Kirby, and a third cut in its face plant, are now occupied.

Affected workers to secure Government intervention to help prevent some of the redundancies could emerge today when Mr R. F. Willems, deputy chief executive of Plessey responsible for the telecommunications division, meets Mr Willems, Minister of State for Industry.

This follows talks earlier this week between the company's management and representatives of the North-West Industrial Development Association, the Merseyside Development Association, the Merseyside County Council and other local authorities.

After these talks Mr Clifford Chapman, director of the development association, gave a warning that the closures and redundancies, involving the loss of 1,300 jobs on Merseyside, would be a further serious blow to an area which already has 10.6 per cent unemployment.

Kenneth Owen writes: Mr Kenneth Cornfield, managing director of STC and president of the Telecommunications Engineering and Manufacturing Association, said in London yesterday that changes in technology could bring a drastic contraction in the industry.

Speaking at a meeting of the Royal Society, Mr Cornfield quoted the numbers of direct operatives needed to produce telephone exchange switching equipment providing the equivalent of 500,000 lines a year.

The change from traditional electromechanical equipment to semi-electronic systems, new making place, means a reduction from 3,500 to 1,250 operatives.

Mr John F. Sebire, Chairman, reports:

- Records achieved in both sales and profits, and future prospects are good.
- Export sales exceeded £1m and are increasing.
- Two-way consultation between Board Room and Shop Floor continues.
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Government stands by rescue of Chrysler

The Government yesterday defended its rescue of the Chrysler car company last year and rejected criticisms by a Commons committee of the way in which the rescue was handled.

These criticisms came in a report last year from the Trade and Industry sub-committee of the Commons Public Expenditure Committee.

Yesterday the Government welcomed the report and its broad acceptance of the final deal worked out by the Government to ensure the continued existence of Chrysler UK.

In the reply to the committee, published yesterday, the Government said Chrysler UK had prospects for viability and added that a strong and profitable Chrysler corporation—(the United States parent company)—was essential for success.

The recent announcement by Chrysler Corporation of substantial profits overall confirmed the Government's confidence in it as a partner in the reconstruction of Chrysler UK within an integrated European organisation.

It pointed to improved industrial relations, a bigger than expected contract to supply car kits to Iran, and closer integration with the European operations of the corporation. But it also said that the losses of Chrysler UK this year were greater than expected.

The committee criticized the Department of Industry for being caught unprepared by the sudden imminent collapse of Chrysler UK, and the ultimatum

of the American parent company to the Government to give cash help or see the company closed.

But the Government rejected this complaint and said that the charge of unpreparedness could not be sustained.

Another complaint that the six weeks of negotiations was too long was also rejected. The Government said this time could only have been reduced by a less detailed examination of the problem or the consideration of fewer alternative solutions, both of which would have been wrong.

The Government criticized the committee for giving the impression in its report that "Chrysler got the terms for a rescue and the Government merely accepted these terms."

"This is incorrect," the Government reply said. "The loss-sharing provisions were the subject of much hard bargaining."

Welcoming the report, the Government replied: "The committee do not dissent from the decision to assist Chrysler UK and accept that the Secretary of State's cautious optimism about Chrysler UK's future viability was substantially justified."

Back to work: Nearly 2,000 strikers at Chrysler's Linwood plant at Strathclyde voted to return to work yesterday. But there was still no sign of a settlement of the strike of 400 men in the body shop on which production hinges, and it remained virtually paralysed.

Pay plea by directors of state boards

By Malcolm Brown

Directors of the boards of seven nationalized industries have appealed for talks with the Government on pay and conditions.

The plea came in a letter to Lord Peart, Lord Privy Seal, last night by the Association of Members of State Industry Boards, a recently-formed organization which now represents 80 per cent of the full-time directors of the British Airports Authority, British Airways, Cable & Wireless, the electricity boards, British Gas, the National Coal Board and the Post Office.

Mr Denis Dodds, chairman of the association, warns Lord Peart that there is great bitterness among the ranks of his members, whose salaries have remained substantially unchanged since 1972.

The association's appeal comes after the announcement by Mr Archibald Willen, managing director of Cable & Wireless, that he is taking early retirement because of the invitation to resign.

He finds himself in a position where he is not receiving significantly less than senior employees in their own industries.

In the wake of the Cable & Wireless affair at least six other state industry board members are understood to be giving serious consideration to their positions. The association hopes to set up a permanent forum for discussion with the Government.

announced yesterday that minimum deposit rates to non-trade members and non-members will be increased to £10,000 per 10-ton lot, to holders of over 100 tons.

As a result prices in both the London cocoa and coffee markets plunged. Cocoa fell by £505 per tonne for "spot" March and £484 for May futures. Coffee fell by £345 per tonne for "spot" March and £383 for May.

Commodities, page 32

Halifax lent £1.196m to homebuyers last year
Halifax Building Society last year lent £1.196m to 135,000 new borrowers.

About 44 per cent of the total went to buyers of houses built before 1945, of which 24.7 per cent was for pre-1919 houses.

Liquid assets during this period dropped from 19.8 per cent to 17.8 per cent of total assets of £5,411m. Reserves went up from 2.53 per cent to 2.63 per cent of assets.

Marine equipment plea
Britain's marine equipment suppliers yesterday called for less foreign equipment to be incorporated into ships for overseas customers.

Mr B. N. Preston, chairman of the British Marine Equipment Council, said it would be "positively scandalous" if ships for foreign registry were built in the United Kingdom under Government guarantees and longer-term credit with virtually all the equipment supplied from abroad.

CEI under fire from Electricals

By Derek Harris

An attack on the "dismaying complacency" of the Council of Engineering Institutions and on the shortcomings of a voting reorganization it is implementing was made last night by Mr John Lyons, general secretary of the Electrical Power Engineers' Association.

The EPEA, which is campaigning to widen its membership among professional engineers, was the only TUC-affiliated trade union operating in the private sector approved by the CEI in a recent survey of organizations for professional engineers.

Mr Lyons also made a strong plea for the Government to set up a committee of inquiry to place under public scrutiny the major problems facing engineers and manufacturing industry—the only way to improve the poor climate of opinion about engineers.

The CEI had made an error of judgment in publicizing its opposition to an inquiry, Mr Lyons said. That was no longer a united view within the CEI, since two of its largest member organizations, the Institution of Electrical Engineers and the Institution of Mechanical Engineers, had indicated their support of an inquiry if it were set up.

Tool deliveries up
Increasing deliveries of United Kingdom machine tools on both the home and export markets, new orders at their highest level for a year, have given further hope that the long-awaited business turnaround has arrived.

Figures issued today in Trade and Industry magazine show that the value of deliveries in the fourth quarter rose by 14 per cent on the previous three months and 12 per cent on a year earlier.

US ban on saccharine bitter pill for drinks trade

Any restriction on the use of saccharine would have serious consequences for the British soft drinks trade. Since the ban on cyclamates seven years ago there is no other substitute for sugar.

Both the United States and Canada have banned the use of saccharine within the past few days.

Hardest-hit would be the recently-developed and fast-growing low-calorie soft drinks sector, estimated to be worth more than £16m in retail sales.

But saccharine is also used in chocolate, coffee, cereals, canned fruits and a wide variety of food products. Food manufacturers generally, since the steep increases in sugar prices, have been turning to saccharine as an alternative.

Large users include Coca Cola, which in 1975 re-launched a low-calorie cola drink under the name Tab, and last year brought out Fresca, another low-calorie product.

Both make extensive use of saccharine. Sugar is used in Coca Cola's main brands, which also include Fanta and Lilt.

Coca Cola was hit by the ban on cyclamates shortly after it launched Tab on the British market in the mid-1960s. It was withdrawn when cyclamates were banned, and only re-introduced five or six years later when the company was sure it could overcome the aftertaste associated with saccharine.

Another big saccharine user is Cadbury Schweppes, which has been marketing a range of low-calorie mixer drinks under the Slimline name. In addition, the group uses artificial sweeteners in some of its hot drink products.

A spokesman for Boots, the biggest manufacturer of saccharine in Britain, said yesterday that it was "keeping the situation under close review. We're very interested to look at the data on which the Americans and Canadians have based their decisions."

The British Soft Drinks Council, whose members use large amounts of saccharine, pointed out that under American legislation any substance that causes cancer in animals under experimental conditions must be banned from human use.

"The council understands that in the latest experiments there were fed massive doses of saccharine, far in excess of any possible human intake."

SE will scrutinize Tuesday's dealings in Cavenham shares

By Richard Allen

A Stock Exchange investigation into dealings on Tuesday, March 8 in Cavenham shares is being held. That was when Sir James Goldsmith's Générale Occidentale group announced it was dropping its bid.

The inquiry has been requested by the Exchange's quotation department, apparently as a result of jobbers' claims that heavy selling took place before the announcement was made.

According to market sources this selling did not result in any significant price weakness because most deals were matched by buyers banking on Occidentale raising its initial 120p a share offer for the minority interest in Cavenham.

Immediately after the announcement that Occidentale was not going through with the offer Cavenham shares plunged 19p to 104p. Before the bid was announced they stood at around 94p.

Meanwhile, it became clear last night that Prudential Assurance, which holds 6 per cent of Cavenham shares is to meet an early meeting with Sir James over the future of Cavenham. Sir James is in the United States and is expected back in London early next week.

Institutional holders are known to be anxious about the uncertainties created by Occidentale's 51 per cent holding. There are also fears that Cavenham may be forced to sell off some of its French interests if the Occidentale majority holding were cut.

Occidentale's stake in Cavenham was built up from 39 per cent to 51 per cent as a result of a restructuring exercise last May. Sir James is chairman of both groups.

The reason for the £62m minority bid was officially stated as being "in conformity with the company's policy" of acquiring the minority interests in all groups in which it had a majority interest.

However, Sir James at the time did not deny that the decision partly reflected his growing personal disillusion with "what he thought was an increasingly hostile climate against which public companies have had to operate in Britain."

The original 120p a share offer was regarded by most market observers as merely an opening shot and this week's sudden withdrawal came as a complete surprise to many people.

Broking firm suspension after junior's 'act of folly'

One of London's money brokers, Short Loan and Mortgage Company, has had its dealings in foreign exchange and currency deposits suspended for a month by order of the Foreign Exchange and Currency Deposit Brokers' Association.

The ban has been imposed as a disciplinary measure, after a breach of confidentiality by one of the brokers' junior staff.

Short Loan and Mortgage was inclined to play down the significance of the original offence, but not of the disciplinary action taken by the association. Mr R. F. Laidlaw, the company's assistant, said that the association's action followed "a little misunderstanding on one or two things"; it was "just one of those things that happens from time to time."

The company, he said, had not agreed with the imposition of the sentence, but as a member of the association had felt obliged to accept its verdict. He said that the original offence had been "an act of folly, of a bombastic nature," by one of the company's juniors, who had said something that he should have not have done. However, the company accepted that it could not duck responsibility for the actions of its juniors.

Both Mr Laidlaw and the officers of the association were unwilling to discuss the exact nature of the breach of confidentiality involved; but it is understood that the junior employee in question had been indiscreet about some actions proposed by the association.

Short Loan and Mortgage has apparently written to the banks with which it normally has dealings, to explain the reasons for the suspension. It is, Mr Laidlaw said, voluntarily refraining from any foreign exchange or currency deposit business in order not to embarrass its customers.

Mr Laidlaw pointed out that the dealings from which the company is temporarily disbarred (the ban lasts until March 21) are "not just a small part of our business."

However, the company is much bigger in the sterling markets, and notably in local authority finance, than it is in foreign exchange; and in these areas it is not governed by the brokers' association.

Mr Tony Woellwarth, secretary of the association, pointed out that the one month ban was in effect a minimum penalty, and he was of the opinion that the ban on a "relatively small" part of its business would do the company little real harm.

Short Loan and Mortgage will still be able to deal multi-nationally—linking up, for example, clients in France and Italy; but the ban means that it will not be able to do foreign exchange or currency deposit business for its duration with London banks. Previous suspensions—there have been three in the past two years—have lasted for several months.

Adrienne Gleeson

Nationwide Leisure loses Panel appeal
By John Brennan

A full meeting of the Take-over Panel ruled yesterday that Mr H. Dobson, vice-chairman of Nationwide Leisure, had not acted in concert with British Car Auctions, the motor dealing group that is bidding £671,000 for Nationwide.

The Panel rejected an appeal by Nationwide against an earlier ruling of the Panel's executive and confirmed that BCA need not increase its offer of one BCA share for every three Nationwide shares. Mr Dobson, who initially supported the Nationwide board's unanimous rejection of BCA's "ridiculously low" offer, later accepted the bid with another shareholder on behalf of 1,200,000 shares, 18.3 per cent of the total.

Mr Dobson also bought further Nationwide shares at 15p and at 20p in order to reacquire a director's qualification holding, and subsequently accepted BCA's offer for part of this new stake.

The Panel has also given BCA permission to make a partial 10p a cash share offer to Nationwide shareholders, since, as Nationwide is unlisted, BCA cannot make market purchases. Nationwide has 3,800 shareholders, many with less than 1,000 shares, and BCA's advisors, Guinness Mahon, hope that the cash offer will bring out the acceptances it needs to push BCA's current 42.14 per cent holding and acceptance over the 50 per cent mark.

Tool deliveries up
Increasing deliveries of United Kingdom machine tools on both the home and export markets, new orders at their highest level for a year, have given further hope that the long-awaited business turnaround has arrived.

Figures issued today in Trade and Industry magazine show that the value of deliveries in the fourth quarter rose by 14 per cent on the previous three months and 12 per cent on a year earlier.

Commodities, page 32

Halifax lent £1.196m to homebuyers last year

Halifax Building Society last year lent £1.196m to 135,000 new borrowers.

About 44 per cent of the total went to buyers of houses built before 1945, of which 24.7 per cent was for pre-1919 houses.

Liquid assets during this period dropped from 19.8 per cent to 17.8 per cent of total assets of £5,411m. Reserves went up from 2.53 per cent to 2.63 per cent of assets.

Marine equipment plea

Britain's marine equipment suppliers yesterday called for less foreign equipment to be incorporated into ships for overseas customers.

Mr B. N. Preston, chairman of the British Marine Equipment Council, said it would be "positively scandalous" if ships for foreign registry were built in the United Kingdom under Government guarantees and longer-term credit with virtually all the equipment supplied from abroad.

Textile import curbs

More curbs against cheap textiles from the Far East were announced by the Government last night. Imports of men's and boys' knitted shirts and T-shirts from the Philippines are to be limited to a total of 650,000 pieces this year. The move follows a sharp rise in these imports last year.

How the markets moved

The Times index: 170.49 + 1.04
The FT index: 413.8 + 3.6

THE POUND

	Bank buys	Bank sells
Australia	1.52	1.57
Austria	30.50	28.50
Belgium	65.25	62.25
Canada	1.85	1.80
Denmark	10.42	10.02
Finland	6.75	6.50
France	8.50	8.45
Germany	4.25	4.06
Greece	65.00	62.00
Hong Kong	8.20	7.75
Italy	154.00	149.00
Japan	514.00	485.00
Netherlands	4.46	4.34
Norway	9.33	8.97
Portugal	69.50	64.50
S. Africa	2.01	1.88
Spain	122.00	113.50
Sweden	7.51	7.16
Switzerland	4.55	4.33
US	1.76	1.71
Yugoslavia	34.75	32.50

Rates for small denomination bank notes only, as quoted yesterday by Barclays International Ltd. Other rates apply to travellers' cheques and other foreign currency business.

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Derek Crouch (Contractors) LIMITED

Extracts from the Report and Accounts for the year to December 31st, 1976 and the Statement of the Chairman, Mr. D.C.H. Crouch

	1976 £'000	1975 £'000	1974 £'000
Turnover	28,002	21,502	17,860
Earnings before tax	1,817	1,134	933
Taxation	812	534	461
Dividends	301	274	247
Earnings Retained	704	326	225
Earnings per Share	10.36p	6.19p	4.87p

Dividend
An increased final dividend of 2.4948p per share is recommended making a total of 3.5268p for the year against 3.2062p for 1975.

Results
Our business in the U.K. has remained satisfactory with all operations meeting expectations.

Future
We have acquired a modern office and workshop complex in Belgium for companies being incorporated in the Benelux countries. One of these companies is being established for sales of construction and mining equipment on the continent and this venture will establish headquarters in Europe for the many other opportunities which we expect to materialise in due course. We are well prepared for expansion as opportunities present themselves and I shall be disappointed if profits for 1977 do not reflect an increase on those for the year under review.

FOR THE RECORD/BUSINESS

EMI is not scanning so fast but it makes more music

Boosted by increased music sales and a better performance from its hotels and restaurants, EMI pushed pre-tax profits ahead from £29.56m to £36.73m in the half year to end December last. But electronics profits grew by only a sixth and there has been a marked fall in the growth of the electrical scanner business in the United States. Heavy research expenses and increased intervention by regulatory agencies are largely responsible.

Racal wants £14.7m

A one-for-eight rights issue from Racal Electronics to raise £14.7m is accompanied by a forecast pre-tax rise of three-fifths to £32m in the year to March 31 next. The prediction excludes the £1m profits from the Ultra Electronic Holding snake and any contribution from Milgo Electric Corporation. The £64.25m consideration for Milgo is to be substantially financed by a \$47.5m medium term multi-currency facility.

Midland Bank excels

Midland Bank has beaten many brokers' estimates with a doubled pre-tax profit of £166.4m last year. A £5m turnaround by the Thomas Cooke travel offshoot to £2.5m pre-tax, Bland Payne's contribution of £15.2m against £6.6m, and the absence of special provisions against advances augmented a strong contribution from the clearing business.

Uncertain for JFB

Helped by loss elimination and a first full contribution from N. Greening, half-time profits from Johnson and Firth Brown reached £4.5m against £2.3m to help confirm the forecast rise to £11m pre-tax in the year to June 30 next. However, although the road, wire and engineering divisions are improving, the upturn in steels has not been sustained.

GLC raises £75m

The Greater London Council is raising £75m by a 12.5 per cent loan stock issue at £86.30. The redemption yield of 13.59 per cent is in line with the recent Corporation of London issue but a full two points more than Treasury 12 per cent, 1983.

Lloyds accounts

The Lloyds Bank accounts, which Sir Eric Faulkner presents for the last time, show a rise in the free capital ratio from 2.4 per cent to 3.5 per

cent accounted for by a rights and a tranche of euro-dollar notes. The free quality ratio is 1.8 per cent.

Delta recovers

Recovery will take Delta Metal profits from £11.6m to £23.4m pre-tax in the year ended 1 January last. Early conversion of the £8.1m convertible loan stock 1984-89 is proposed to strengthen the balance sheet with only a 14 per cent extra equity dilution.

Utd Biscuits glow

Despite a significant slowdown in the second half, United Biscuits pushed pre-tax profits up by a half to £33.25m in the year to January 1 last. As forecast at the time of the purchase of Wimpy from J. Lyons, the total gross dividend is halved by the same proportion to 6.53p per share.

Turner & Newall

The long awaited improvement at Ferodo and a strong second half performance from plastics helped pre-tax profits at Turner & Newall to rise from

Financial

£21.6m to £25.4m. Cash balances stand at £48m and take in £20m in the US from the sale of Certain-Teed shares.

BSR sweetens yield

Aiming to increase its yield, BSR is throwing a one-for-five rights issue at 105p to raise £15m. The dividend for the year to January 8 last is to be raised by 78 per cent to 6.25938p per share and by 15 per cent this year to 7.216p gross per share. Pre-tax profits last year rebounded from £9.45m to a peak £28.65m.

Development Secs bid

EMI's £26.1m bid for Development Securities values DS at 58p per share premium on net worth of 740p a share. Its cash element enables EMI to boost dividends by a third.

ICI's liquidity

After the £206m rights issue, ICI's net liquid resources have climbed by £275m to £469m which represents 121 per cent of the balance-sheet total. Scheduled capital spending will be £550m this year and working

capital requirements could be as much as £200m.

Woolworth pounds on

After a £100m sales rise to £705.18m, pre-tax profits from P. W. Woolworth climbed by 13 per cent to £40.97m in the year to January 31. In view of the need to keep cash in the business the net dividend is held at 3.95p a share, implying a rise in the gross profit from 4.44p to 4.95p a share.

Barrow Hepburn-NEB

Barrow Hepburn is selling half its tanning interests to the National Enterprise Board for £500,000 after the injection into the business of £2.5m NEB loan stock. The effect will be to cut total borrowings back from £17.5m to roughly equal to risk capital of around £10m.

GKN-Sachs bid blow

The West German Carrel Office has taken further action to try to stop Guest, Keen and Nettelfolds' planned acquisition of 74.99 per cent of Sachs, the West German motor components group. The Carrel Office has appealed to the Federal Supreme Court.

HESTAIR

Hestair has placed its 181 per cent holding in Spear and Jackson with several institutions at 114p a share. Hestair has grossed a £400,000 profit on the £720,000 investment.

FISONS

Sales for 1976 up from £215.14m to £258.33m. Pre-tax profits rose from £16.68m to £18.64m. As forecast, total net dividend is 11.51p on increased capital, against 10.46p.

STEETLEY

On sales 30 per cent higher at £211m, pre-tax profits Steetley rose by 45 per cent to £19.95m in 1976. Total dividend, gross, 3.88p (8.08p).

PAULS & WHITES

Pauls and Whites is making one-for-four rights issue to raise £3.34m and is forecasting much higher dividends and profits. New shares are offered at 72p each.

C. H. BEAZER

On turnover steady at £3.29m (£3.33m), pre-tax profits for half-year to December 31 fell from £445,000 to £222,000. Interim payment cut from 3.5p to 1.5p but board expects year's total to be at least equal to year before.

3 directors in new Sainsbury board posts

Mr John Sainsbury, Chairman, J. Sainsbury, has announced the following board changes: Mr R. A. A. Walker, with particular responsibility for the dairy, bakery and wines and spirits departments; Mr P. J. Davis, with responsibility for non-foods buying, marketing projects, advertising, design, market research and public relations; Mr J. H. G. Barnes takes over board responsibility for branch operations upon the retirement of Mr P. A. C. Snow.

Mr Eric Rumley has been elected to the board of Phillips Petroleum Products. Mr C. M. Fredericks, vice-president, has been appointed manager of the London branch of City National Bank of Detroit, succeeding Mr E. D. Wilson.

Mr Brian Walters has been made executive director, exports, by Decision.

Mr A. W. J. Gould and Mr H. Leach have joined the board of Laid Development. Mr T. Shaw has been made a director of Walker and Homer. Sir Alan Walker becomes a deputy chairman of Midland Bank from April 20. Lord McFadden is to relinquish his deputy chairmanship but will remain a director. Sir David Barran continues as a deputy chairman.

Appointments

Mr J. A. Lawson joins the board of Twintock as financial director on April 1. He succeeds Mr D. H. E. Eason who will be leaving to take up another appointment.

Mr E. D. Barkway, Mr D. W. Bartlett and Mr J. V. Woollam have resigned from the board of First Telford Investment Company and Mr O. A. A. Aisher, Mr G. Jackson and Mr D. A. Wickes have gone on to the board.

Mr Christopher Pringle has been appointed to the newly-created post of vice-chairman of the Board of Sir David Barran. Mr Roger Allen has joined the main board of BSR as sales director.

Mr Michael Mills has been made chief executive of Bayer UK's management and financial division. He succeeds Mr John Johnson.

Mr J. J. West, a director of Reckitt & Colman, is to join the board of Reckitt & Colman Australia. He will remain on the board of Reckitt & Colman and will become chief executive of Reckitt & Colman Australia during the year.

Mr Sam Wainwright is to be Managing Director, Giro, on the Post Office Board from May 2. Mr Wainwright is the present managing director of the Rea Brothers merchant bankers. The appointment was made yesterday by Mr Victor Secretary of State for Industry.

Fair Trading Act rules may be tightened

The Government is considering amending the Fair Trading Act (1973), following the decision not to prevent the merger of Babcock and Wilcox and Herbert Morris. The Monopolies Commission recommended by a 3 to 2 majority that the deal should not be allowed and Mr Hattersley, Secretary of State for Prices and Consumer Protection, said he was unable to intervene because the Act demanded a two-thirds majority against a merger before he could stop it.

Since then it has been contested that the Act allows him to intervene after a recommendation to do so by a simple majority of the commission. He has since reaffirmed that he will not stop the merger.

Profit margins plea

In preliminary talks on the Government's consultative document on future price controls, the Confederation of British Industry and the Retail Consortium have asked for profit margin controls to be dropped.

The Retail Consortium particularly is angry about the proposed retention of gross margin controls and has given warnings of a possible threat to jobs. Among other concessions, the CBI wants safeguards for companies to be more precisely defined.

ICI spending plans

Record spending levels on new fixed assets have been announced by ICI. It plans to spend £550m compared with the £440m last year. The company also expects to

Industrial

sanction new investment this year amounting to £700m. Two projects have been approved: a £90m plant on Teesside for the production of pure terephthalic acid, and a £15m plant to make Procion fibre-reactive dyes.

Electricity demand

For the third year running the Electricity Council has pruned its forecasts of future demand for electricity. It now estimates annual growth up to 1983-84 at 3 per cent compared with 3.3 per cent this year and more than 5 per cent annually

Construction falls 1pc

All construction work during the fourth quarter of 1976 is valued provisionally by the Department of the Environment at £3,262m, which on a seasonally-adjusted basis is 1 per cent down on the third

BALANCE OF PAYMENTS

The following are the figures for the balance of payments released by the Treasury (all figures in £m):

	1974	1975	1976	Q4 1976	Q1 1977	Q2 1977	Q3 1977	Q4 1977
Visible trade	-221	-3,126	-3,582	-967	-828	-538	-818	-887
Invisible	+1,841	+1,560	+2,169	+403	+399	+480	+480	+619
Current balance	-380	-1,566	-1,413	-564	-429	-58	-338	-268
Capital transfers	-75	0	-1,043	-104	0	0	0	0
Investment and other capital flows	+1,866	+361	+1,922	+289	+1,468	+514	+303	+303
Balance of official financing*	-139	-190	-267	+248	+5	-167	-7	-98
Balance for official financing*	-1,648	-1,465	-3,628	-213	-364	-167	-862	-133
Net transactions with IMF	0	0	+1,018	0	0	+580	+438	0
Foreign currency borrowing	+644	+423	0	0	0	+581	0	-924
By public sector under exchange cover scheme	-1,107	-387	+1,793	+143	+237	+578	+582	+441
Reserve loss (+ = loss)	-105	+655	+853	+170	+217	-178	+554	+616

*The Government has decided to replace the concept of "net currency flow" by "balance for official financing". The main change involved in this is the transference of "public sector borrowing under the exchange cover scheme" from above the financing line to below it. This item is now included as a financing component. Previously it appeared under the heading "overseas investment in the United Kingdom public sector" and "overseas currency borrowing by United Kingdom banks".

RETAIL SALES AND HP

The following are the seasonally adjusted figures for the volume of retail sales and value of new instalment credit released by the Department of Industry.

	Sales by volume 1970=100	New credit extended £m
1972	105.8	2,497
1973	110.7	2,871
1974	109.9	2,517
1975	107.9	2,992
1976	108.1	3,806
1977 Q1	111.1	715
Q2	109.2	758
Q3	105.4	749
Q4	105.7	769
1976 Q1	107.3	844
Q2	107.6	875
Q3	108.9	915
Q4	108.5	972
1977 Jan	110.2	282
Feb	106.6	276
March	105.4	280
April	108.1	281
May	106.8	281
June	107.3	282
July	108.8	291
August	108.9	305
Sept	108.9	319
Oct	108.1	310
Nov	109	332
Dec	108.3	330
1977 Jan p	107.2	324

PUBLIC SECTOR BORROWING REQUIREMENT

The following are figures released yesterday by the CSO for the Government borrowing requirement:

	£m seasonally adjusted	Total	Public	Central Government
1973/74	2,222	4,458	5,124	7,832
1974/75	5,124	7,832	8,807	10,809
1975/76	8,807	10,809	9,654	11,547
1976 Q1	741	1,547	1,010	1,712
Q2	1,010	1,712	1,467	2,242
Q3	1,467	2,242	1,949	2,711
Q4	1,949	2,711	2,258	2,970
1977 Q1	2,258	2,970	2,454	2,624
Q2	1,998	2,752	2,279	2,500
Q3	1,798	2,400	1,798	2,400
Q4	821	1,760	821	1,760

WHOLESALE PRICES

The following are the indices (1970=100) of wholesale prices of manufactured goods and of basic materials and fuel purchased by manufacturers, released by the Department of Industry yesterday. The figures are not seasonally adjusted, exclude purchase tax but include revenue duties.

	Output prices (ex-manufacturer)	Prices of materials and fuels
1976 Q1	206.9	206.5
Q2	214.4	206.5
Q3	223.2	206.5
Q4	233.9	206.5
January	204.8	206.5
February	207.3	206.5
March	208.8	206.5
April	211.5	206.5
May	214.8	206.5
June	217.0	206.5
July	218.8	206.5
August	223.4	206.5
September	226.3	206.5
October	230.0	206.5
November	234.6	206.5
December	237.2	206.5
1977 January	244.9	206.5
February p	248.1	206.5

BUDGET DEFICIT (£ million)

	Deficit	Central Government	Other	Transfers	Interest
1976 Q1	1,439	-2,444	-103	-800	-27
Q2	1,560	-1,757	218	-27	-27
Q3	1,919	-1,757	162	-1,080	-1,080
Q4	2,033	-1,757	162	-1,080	-1,080
1977 Q1	2,403	-1,757	162	-1,080	-1,080
Q2	2,351	-1,757	162	-1,080	-1,080
Q3	2,736	-1,757	162	-1,080	-1,080
Q4	2,736	-1,757	162	-1,080	-1,080

BANK FIGURES

The following are the figures for eligible liabilities and reserve assets ratios of United Kingdom banks released by the Bank of England today:

	At mid-month	Eligible liabilities (£m)	Reserve assets (£m)	Ratio
1976 Feb	33,206	0.2	15.4	
March	33,108	0.9	15.3	
April	33,909	10.6	15.5	
May	33,740	6.6	15.2	
June	34,029	11.6	15.2	
July	34,989	13.3	14.2	
Aug	35,183	18.2	15.1	
Sept	35,794	22.4	15.4	
Oct	36,623	19.9	14.9	
Nov	37,259	25.6	14.3	
Dec	36,876	12.8	13.8	
1977 Jan	36,146	-5.1	14.4	
Feb	34,827	-23.7	13.8	

R. & W. HAWTHORN LESLIE & CO. LTD.

	1976	1975
TURNOVER	£ 4,233,000	£ 3,282,000
The trading profit of the Group before deducting the items listed below amounted to	269,730	307,839
From which must be deducted:		
Provision for estimated losses on Work in Progress	(8,000)	(314,468)
Development Expenses	(463,501)	(214,191)
From which must be deducted (Yearly share of the profits of Associated Companies)	21,006	3,882
Goodwill written off	(9,778)	(9,778)
Giving a total for the year before taxation	(270,763)	25,184
Taxation for the year amounts to	(21,218)	(11,464)
Leaving a loss after taxation of	(292,081)	(263,278)
From which must be deducted Minority Interest	3,796	(433)
Leaving a loss for the year of	(288,285)	(263,711)

Main Points from Sir Horace Law's Statement and the Accounts. The Accounts are presented for a period of twelve months during which there was a deep recession in shipbuilding and it was not until August 1976 that the first engine order was received after a gap of twenty-one months. Since August 1976 we have had orders for nine Sulzer Engines, worth over £5m. The continued rate of inflation and the severe competition for orders make it difficult to obtain the sort of margin which is needed for modernisation and development.

The drive to sell Seahorse has not so far borne fruit. In shipbuilding with the general slump in orders this task is difficult though we have not given up. We continue to quote for both marine and land applications. Seahorse

The prototype was completed in May 1976 and, there is a considerable amount of interest in Europe, in the U.S.A. and Australia, and I have no doubt that we shall obtain orders before long. Development Expenditure

The two developments, Seahorse and Seajoule, have absorbed the profits of your Company over the last five years and more. We must show these considerable assets as standing at nil in our Accounts. In the event of nationalisation these assets become the property of British Shipbuilders. We shall press our claims for the maximum compensation for these developments. The Future

Your Board has watched the chaotic parliamentary proceedings which have accompanied the Aircraft and Shipbuilding Nationalisation Bill with concern for the industry. If nationalisation does not take place your Company remains solvent with the ability to trade, and with two valuable developments to its credit, and an order book stretching into 1979.

Dividends. Although your Company traded profitably during the year the profits did not cover the sums spent on development. In order to preserve the cash position of the Company it was not deemed prudent to pay a dividend to Ordinary Shareholders.

The Nottingham Manufacturing Company, Limited

Salient points from the Statement by the Chairman as circulated with the Report and Accounts for the year ended 31st December, 1976.

	1976	1975
Comparative results	£000	£000
Turnover	104,141	87,212
Exports	9,395	5,783
Trading Profit before Depreciation	13,117	10,013
Depreciation	2,962	2,585
Investment Income	1,828	1,324
Profit before Taxation	11,266	8,024
Profit after Taxation	5,476	3,947
Dividends per Share	2.9043p	2.6403p
Earnings per Share	10.56p	7.62p

- Export sales increased by 62% — further significant progress anticipated in 1977.
- With reasonable trading conditions, further progress hoped for in 1977.

MANN & OVERTON

London Taxicab Specialists

Extracts from the Statement of Mr. R. C. H. Overton

* During the past year we have sold 14% more Austin taxicabs in London than during the previous year. This improvement, together with the consequent additional Hire Purchase business, has enabled us to produce record monetary results.

* The Directors have pleasure in recommending that the final ordinary dividend be raised to 2.386p which is the maximum permitted.

* Our current trading has lost none of its momentum and therefore it augurs well for the immediate future.

* Since 1st January, we have accepted

BY THE FINANCIAL EDITOR

Surprise tactics by the Bank



Mr Michael Pocock, chairman of Shell Transport & Trading, pressure on oil prices.

has warned that his overseas expansion plans may not work to the benefit of United Kingdom shareholders in the short-term, does not leave a lot to go for.

What, then, of the loan notes themselves? They carry a margin of 1 per cent over six-month interbank rate, which would imply a rate of 12.15 per cent initially. But the first fixing GEC reserved the right to raise the rate and this it has done, setting on 12.1 per cent. That should be some help in early dealings if the market is right and a weight of selling develops.

The hopes will trade in the loan stock markets and there will be a tendency to measure them against fixed rate instruments, in which case a significant discount of at least two or three points could open up. Some 1982 corporation loan stocks, for example, are yielding close to 13 per cent. Existing loan stocks are not a very satisfactory yardstick, but it remains a sound general principle that when interest rates are coming down—and there were serious doubts on that score yesterday—it is better to hold fixed rather than floating rate debt.

Serck AE must pay more

Associated Engineering's motive for the takeover bid for Serck seems fairly clear. Recovery in Serck's main businesses of industrial valves and heat exchangers comes later in the industrial cycle than AE's products and have yet to benefit from any real upturn in demand.

So, Serck should begin to take off while the sharp growth at AE, which has come from increased margins from a switch to more diesel components and from replacement parts, could be tailing off. Moreover, Serck's large, successful heat exchanger business could help improve AE's continuing poor performance, Covrad, and some savings could possibly be made from small scale rationalization between Edmunds Walker and the radiator repair company, Serck Services.

As for technical and marketing benefits, AE says they exist; Serck says they do not. It would be churlish to suggest there were no points of contact but they do seem minimal. Serck's section document pledges capital spending of £15m over the next two years, which compares well with AE's plans. On the face of it there seems no reason why Serck should not grow as fast outside AE as within, while the new management, headed by the chief executive John Pinckard in 1973, has not yet had chance to show how well it can do in a good market.

The fears of the Serck workforce which have been so loudly and widely expressed seem exaggerated and despite Serck's dominant position in the United Kingdom heat exchanger market, this looks a bid which the Monopolies Commission should leave for the market to decide.

The forecast of £5m profits from Serck this year against £7.1m coming entirely from increased efficiency causes problems for AE in that it means the nine-for-10 share offer still involved earnings dilution while Serck's increased dividend of 9.0p gross is covered almost twice.

At 90p Serck's shares stand above the offer from AE, worth, with AE at 88p, a share. Shareholders in Serck lose income by accepting, and on the current terms AE cannot, and should not, succeed. But at the same time Serck can have little ammunition left and the future course of the battle will depend on AE's next step. A one-for-one with a little cash could bring Serck shareholders over.

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Chrysler: from confrontation to cooperation in 16 months

Edward Townsend examines the challenges facing the American-owned vehicle group which has become the first company to sign a planning agreement with the Government

Sixteen months ago, Mr John Riccardo, president of the American Chrysler Corporation, was holding his famous pistol at the heads of British Government ministers. Today there are signs that a much more relaxed and closer working relationship has developed between the United Kingdom subsidiary and Whitehall.

Senior civil servants at the Department of Industry, which is backing Chrysler until 1980 with a maximum of £162.5m in grants and loans, have earned grudging respect from the men at the top of Chrysler UK for their expertise in monitoring every stage of the company's slow climb back to profitability.

The Chrysler men were under no illusions, however, that after Mr Riccardo's blunt ultimatum that the United Kingdom operations would have to close, any Government rescue would be accompanied by the strictest scrutiny. That has taken the form of quarterly meetings with Department of Industry officials, and Mr Peter Griffiths, deputy managing director of Chrysler UK, admits that "there is nothing about us that Whitehall does not know".

More important, in his view, is that the Government knows that each item raised at the meetings has been discussed and agreed in detail with the trade unions.

Now, after a year of hard talking with staff and shop floor representatives, Chrysler has hammered out a business plan that forms the basis for the planning agreement with the Government. Its establishment was a basic condition of the rescue deal.

Under the watchful eyes of a group of journalists, the agreement was signed this week by Mr Graham Bell, deputy secretary at the Department of Industry, and Mr George Lacy, managing director of Chrysler UK.

The agreement, although it

has been forced upon Chrysler, should have provided the Government with a welcome boost to its industrial planning philosophy. However Mr Varley, Secretary of State for Industry, backed out of the signing ceremony at the last minute and it was left to a senior civil servant rather than any of Mr Varley's ministers to wave the Government's flag.

Clearly, ministers do not want to be seen signing the praises of a United States-owned company which has been quietly drawing £40m of public funds to cover losses and a £28m state-backed loan, while the other car company propped up by taxpayers' money, British Leyland, is being threatened with a cutback in future aid.

Among industry's fears about planning agreements is that commercially confidential information contained in them could quickly become public knowledge. And reports over the last few days have shown that the Chrysler agreement has been leaked in detail from a number of sources.

Although Mr Varley and his advisers are cautiously optimistic about the future for Chrysler, this week's outbreak of labour unrest at the company's Lincoln plant in Strid-clyde has served to underline the fact, already amply demonstrated at British Leyland, that threats of closures, major redundancies, the setting up of machinery for greater worker participation and the injection of public monies do not guarantee sustained industrial peace in the motor industry.

The Chrysler management readily agree that the company still has a long way to go in this direction, but it is believed that the process which led to the planning agreement has provided a unique opportunity to put down to the pound's doorstep the company's performance against the French franc, and higher interest charges have also boosted the deficit.

Chrysler stresses that if non-recurring losses of about £14m, caused by the lack of production at Linwood when assembly of the Avenger model was switched there from Ryton, near Coventry, and by other produc-

tion hold-ups, are subtracted the loss is much lower than the £35m recorded in the 1975 accounts.

In return for its detailed financial forecasts, Chrysler is also hoping to be taken into Whitehall's confidence. The planning agreement states: "The company expresses a need for frequent detailed and long-range economic forecasts from the Treasury and other official sources and for data on prices, balance of payments, personal disposable income and durable spending."

The agreement also reveals that Chrysler UK is to play a far more significant role in the new expanded Chrysler Europe than was envisaged a year ago. Integration of the United Kingdom company with Chrysler's French and Spanish operations has all along been seen as crucial for its survival and significant progress has already been made in dovetailing aspects like programming and purchasing, manufacturing and quality and in the appointment of European car and truck directors.

Much confidence is being expressed in the 424, a new conventional three-door small car to be built at Linwood and launched in the late summer. Another 3,600 workers are to be taken on this year, 2,400 of them at Linwood. Originally at Coventry, the new car is to be produced and the planning agreement earmarks an extra £22m for the 424 project this year, the funds coming from Chrysler rather than the Government's coffers.

In total capital spending by Chrysler UK for 1976-77 is £51.6m, an increase of £6.5m on the forecast at the time of the rescue, of which £26m is to be used to expand the Stoke plant at Coventry to provide engines and components for the European operations. The company expects to take

£142m in government tranches and £54m from the Chrysler Corporation this year. It also predicts that its total car sales this year will be 290,200.

The company's UK market share is languishing at present at about 6 per cent, but the planning agreement expects this to rise to 8.1 per cent by the year-end, with total home sales of 109,700. This is almost 40,000 more than envisaged a year ago.

Exports of "knocked down" cars should rise to 127,500 this year, of which 120,000 will be Hunters destined for Iran. The lucrative Iranian contract, the cause of the Government's desire to save the company from liquidation, expires in 1980, but Chrysler is hopeful of an extension.

At home, productivity remains one of the key issues to future success and one that can be argued about only at plant level. The planning agreement outlines that at the Ryton plant last September it was taking 58 man hours to make one Alpine.

This has dropped to 40 hours today and is expected to fall to 30 by the end of the year. Manning levels on the Avenger line at Linwood remain a problem.

Perhaps the real test for Chrysler in the coming year will be in industrial relations. Mr Griffiths agrees that the introduction of 8,000 redundancies that persisted through the first half of last year. The new mood of cooperation that has evolved since then has kept everybody working, but causes of potential conflict are ever present.

Chrysler workers must know that profitability will not be enough. When the government aid runs out, Mr Riccardo and the corporation board will need to be convinced that the United Kingdom company will not once again be a brake on its European developments and that its long-term success is assured.

Kenneth Owen, Technology Correspondent

A world of information at the fingertips

Names such as Info-Line, Tymnet, Technetec and Tins are heralding the public appearance of a new industry—providing information services via computer-based networks.

The computer-held libraries of information are called databases and as the technology (and the marketing) advances the cost of gaining access to the databases is coming down. Overall, the problem is simply one of trying to cope with the continuing information explosion.

Info-Line is the recently formed company whose main shareholders (an unlikely combination) are the Department of Industry, the Institution of Electrical Engineers, the British Library and the Chemical Society.

Despite parliamentary questions, few details of Info-Line have yet emerged, but the company's broad aim will be to provide immediate access to databases of scientific, technical, economic and commercial information. In this enterprise the three non-government partners will clearly act as information providers. To a certain extent the Department of Industry will also provide information, though its main role is the more general one of stimulating better information services for United Kingdom industry.

The Institution of Electrical Engineers, through its Inspect division, already operates a comprehensive information service for physicists and engineers. Inspect now claims to be the world's leading English-language abstracting service for research and development information in physics, electrotechnology, computers and automatic control.

From its computer-held database it prints 14 periodicals which circulate in over 120 countries; and supplies magnetic tapes to government, university and industry centres in 20 countries for their own information services.

Ease of access is important as these international services develop. For the past four years the Inspect data have been held in addition on the Lockheed "Dialog" system in Palo Alto, California and the tapes are also sent to a European Space Agency computer centre in Italy which provides a similar service throughout Europe.

The scale of the business is indicated by the figures for the Lockheed system, which is claimed to be the largest computerized information retrieval service in the world. This now holds some 15 million abstracts of technical reports and articles and the fifteenth database—that of the Commonwealth Agricultural Bureau, Farnham Royal—is now being added.

Inspect's worldwide earnings of £1,600,000 a year, this year, are a parent institution, and returning an 18 per cent profit on turnover. Eighty-six per cent of this income comes from overseas.

A recently new information service, launched in London by Control Data Corporation, Minneapolis, best known as suppliers of large computers. This concerned an extension of that company's "Technetec" service, and a special-purpose link with the United Kingdom Inspect organization.

Technetec is a sort of instant Exchange & Mart for technology; subscribers can enter details of available technology, which are held on identical databases in the United States and Australia. Other subscribers can search the database remotely, via computer terminals, to seek a match with the items they need.

Mr William Norris, chairman and chief executive officer of Control Data, told an Institution of Electrical Engineers seminar in London that "the wheel is being reinvented every day throughout the industrial world, while vast amounts of existing technologies are underutilized".

A wealth of information and technology was buried in the libraries and laboratories of companies, governments and research establishments.

The typical cost of a subscriber who files his technology items on the database might be about £50 a year. Users are charged for the time their terminal is linked to the computer, at a rate of about £4 for a five-minute search.

Among the United Kingdom organizations which have placed available items on the Technetec system is the National Research Development Corporation, in an endeavour to find new world markets for United Kingdom technology in mechanical and electrical engineering, electronics, scientific instruments and computer software.

The Inspect link with the Control Data system is in a special database known as Tins (Technology Information Alert), which will be built up at the rate of about 10,000 items a year. These are items selected by Inspect staff from the scientific literature as representing genuine innovations.

Subscribers are "alerted" when new material in their fields of interest is placed on the Technetec system.

Access to the American and other information retrieval systems is becoming easier. The British Post Office recently announced arrangements to link the United Kingdom public network via Western Union International to the Tymnet database network in the United States. This gives access, for example, to the Lockheed system.

But the Info-Line development is proving controversial. The Computing Services Association sees no need for the Government to spend money on setting up a company to provide a new information service when existing CSA member-companies could write the software and run the service on their own networks.

According to Inspect, Info-Line will run its own machine-based system and provide services not only in the United Kingdom but which would be linked to a network to provide services throughout Europe.

This reference is to the Expert network which should come into operation in autumn next year. It is expected that Info-Line will provide one of the centres in this network.

But Info-Line may yet decide to use an existing bureau service or bring in an outside organization to run the computer on a "facilities management" basis, rather than buy and run the computer hardware itself. The company has engaged Logica, the London software consultancy, to advise on the selection of the computer system.

This is one of the most urgent decisions which face Info-Line at present. The chairman of the board is Dr J. W. Barratt of the Chemical Society, and Mr David Martin, former vice president, is full-time general manager.

The Department of Industry is providing a £200,000 loan to Info-Line "so that United Kingdom industry and research organizations will be able to obtain easy and rapid access to a wide range of databases in science and technology". The company's total capital investment is expected to exceed £500,000.

Whatever solution is chosen by Info-Line—an in-house computer or an outside agency—the transformation of the information retrieval business is a fact of life. As new organizations move into the expanding market, new technology should ensure that consulting a database in the next continent is just as easy, if not easier, than consulting a company or laboratory library in the next room.

Business Diary: Nationwide niggle • An inspector calls

If you are one of the 1.6 million depositors with the Nationwide Building Society, you may like to know what is behind the earlier that dropped on to your doorstep this week. It says that the board of the Nationwide would like you to defeat a special resolution by a fellow member to amend Rule 29.

This rule enables the directors to repay to a member his or her shareholding and interest, "without giving any reason", words that this member in question would like deleted.

The reason in this case, business Diary's Ross Davies learns, concerns an investor with £10 in the Nationwide assets (£220,000), who decided to transfer half his holding to his wife. In redeploying these assets the Nationwide computer alerted that the sum of the interest accruing to either party would be less than the original £10 had been left undivided.

Disagreements over this sum have led to the special resolution concerning Rule 29, which will be thrashed out at the 93rd annual general meeting of the Nationwide at the Europa Hotel in London on March 26.

Even if the words "without giving any reason" were deleted, the board would still not necessarily be obliged to give its reasons, however.

The termination clause was first instituted in 1961 to permit the Nationwide to elbow out its awkward squad among its investors without "prolonged and fruitless dispute". Members have subsequently

confirmed this power three times, in 1967, 1970 and 1974. The printing and mailing of the board's recommendations—a dispute over 1p—is thought to have cost about £45,000.

The result of the tussle at the Nationwide's annual general meeting will be closely watched by at least three other building societies which face similarly expensive battles by "barrack room lawyers". These, Davies hears, are the Abbey National, the Britannia and the Magnet.

The directors of the Nationwide, meanwhile, are said to be wearing "on their grannies" honour that Rule 29, if once more endorsed, will not be used to discriminate on grounds of sex, religion or politics.

Conflicting?

Questions are being asked about the handling of a Department of Trade inquiry into Dowgate & General and CST Investments, two of the companies formerly associated with Christopher Selmes, the controversial financier.

A number of erstwhile City personalities who have featured in the inquiry have lodged complaints with various government departments and the Bar Council over their treatment at the hands of the Department of Trade inspectors.

Chief among their criticisms is the fact that one of the inspectors, Joseph Jackson, QC, acted as a legal adviser to Selmes in a period immediately before the events now being investigated under the provisions of Section 165 of the Companies Act 1949.

Selmes, who is now based in New York, refuses to meet the inspectors. He told Business Diary that the reason for this was "a fundamental conflict of interests".

Jackson, he said, had been retained as a legal adviser on the financial aspects of his divorce in 1972, just months before he launched his takeover bid for the Grendon Trust, now one of the matters under investigation.

Other City personalities who have been interviewed by Jackson and given evidence have been shocked in the past few weeks to receive letters from the inspectors in which they continue to make provisional criticisms notwithstanding the fact that witnesses produced to back these statements have, in many cases, yet to be interviewed by the inspectors.

This has unleashed a flood of complaints to the Department of Trade, the Bar Council, the Lord Chancellor and the Ombudsman about the handling of the affair.

There is already some disquiet in the City over the general treatment of witnesses in a Department of Trade inquiry. Earlier this year the Ombudsman criticized the department's practice of publishing comments on individuals in its reports on company investigations after he had considered the case of Castle Life Assurance.

There have been other attacks, following the publication of investigations into



Christopher Selmes

Lombard and London & County, the collapsed fringe bank, on the principle of publishing criticisms of individuals under qualified privilege with no right of redress. The Department of Trade declines to comment on the Dowgate affair.

Take five

Harold Williams, a businessman and management teacher, is President Carter's choice to succeed Roderick Hills as chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission. Hills goes next month.

Williams's appointment, which requires Senate confirmation, will not be officially announced until security and financial clearances are complete—and there is a severe backlog as Carter's stringently imposed checks are observed.

Carter is said to have made the appointment conditional

upon Williams's willingness to serve the full five-year term. This is because he will be the fifth custodian of the securities overlordship in five years—a frequency that has been unsettling to the agency.

Hills gallantly declares his success, "as it is to be potentially one of the best chairmen the commission has ever had".

The new boy is not all that new, being a member of the SEC's important Advisory Committee on Corporate Disclosure. He is Dean of UCLA's Graduate School of Management in Los Angeles, but until 1970 was chairman of Norwest Simon, the big food and fashion producer and has been president of Hunt Wesson Foods and Hunt Food Industries.

We now know that Alan Lord, Second Permanent Secretary at the Treasury, is joining Dunlop on July 1 in a "very senior capacity" and that he will be "creating" this as a "second career". It would be surprising if he did not join the board either on July 1 or soon after.

Sir Reay Geddes, Dunlop's chairman, is 65 in May and known to be considering retirement either then or soon afterwards. He is likely to be succeeded by Dunlop's managing director, Campbell Fraser, who will be 55 in May and might not want to retain the managing directorship indefinitely. Lord could move up quickly to become, say, deputy managing director, with a view to succeeding Fraser as chief executive.

County Bank Limited

preliminary statement for the year ended 31 Dec. 1976

Substantial advance in profits for 1976

	1972	1973	1974	1975	1976
	£m	£m	£m	£m	£m
Pre-tax profit	2.02	2.68	3.11	2.29	4.27
Advances	41.3	60.6	88.9	146.8	166.9
Gross assets	431.4	440.0	452.2	470.3	494.6

County Bank

11 Old Broad Street, London, EC2N 1BB
and in Edinburgh, Leeds and Manchester

© National Westminster Bank Group

BLUNDELL-PERMOGLAZE HOLDINGS LIMITED



"The raising of pre-tax profits above £1 million in a year when many difficulties still face the United Kingdom is a positive indication of the strength of the Group."

N. G. Bassett Smith C.V.O. Chairman

- The business showed solid improvement with a 7% increase in volume against a minimal increase by the industry.
- Profits after tax were £478,326 compared with £407,098.
- Earnings per share increased from 6.4p to 7.5p.
- Exports reached a new record of £1,413,047.
- Strong liquid position at year end.
- Total dividend distribution at maximum permitted.

At the Annual General Meeting held in London on 9th March, 1977, the Chairman said:

"Our budget this year provides for a continuation of our progressive profit record of recent years. I am satisfied with the results in the early months and am, therefore, confident I shall be reporting a further improvement in profits at the year end."

The Industrial side particularly has made the best start to the year it has yet experienced and export sales volume is at a record level."

A copy of the Annual Report may be obtained from The Secretary, Blundell-Permoglaize Holdings Limited, York House, 31 Queen Square, London WC1N 3BL.



Road hauls keep Trans Dvlpmt on the move

By Richard Allen
Transport Development's 140 or so road haulage subsidiaries were behind a 22 per cent jump in pre-tax profits to £14.8m last year.

Road haulage profits leapt 50 per cent to just over £7m, but storage and transport services virtually mirrored them at £6.5m. Exhibition and reinforcement business slipped a bit to £1.2m. Turnover went up from £129m to £166m. A gross final dividend of 2.85p takes the total up by the maximum to 4.38p, allowing for last year's scrip issue and a share rose from 4.81p to 5.62p.

The group thinks that its flexible holding structure has helped carry it through the road haulage recession better than most competitors. It reports that profits so far this year are ahead of those for the corresponding months, though construction is inevitably finding the going tougher.

Shares closed unchanged at 56p.

MARCEWEL HOLDINGS
The group, which is how rapidly and successfully Marcewel can develop overseas, reports Mr A. J. McAlpine, chairman, in his annual report. He expects substantial profits again this year, but a fall in turnover is likely.

Stock markets

Leyland jitters upset MLR gains

Equities had their busiest day for five weeks as sharp gains in the Minimum Lending Rate, were largely lost after gloomy news from British Leyland and the miners.

Gilt-edged stocks also saw a brisk two-way trade, but for the same reasons finished well below their best with gains of about 1p.

The 1 per cent MLR cut brought a sharp burst of buying to an already firm equities market and between midday and 1 pm the FT index jumped more than six points, to take it over 420 for the first time since May 5 last year.

But this euphoria was short-lived as news came in of the rejection of the Leyland peace formula and another round of pay restraint. The mood was quickly reversed and by the close the index, 10.3 better at 1 pm, stood at 413.5, a net gain of 3.6. This was still its best level for almost 10 months.

Stone-Platt hardened 1p to 108p, just 1p from the 1976-77 high and well away from last year's low of 67p. Several brokers hope that the group is now moving gently off the bottom of the textile machinery slump. The 1976 figures, due in a fortnight or so, could show a 10 per cent rise in sales to £11.2m. Some hope for £15.5m this year. Much depends on further signs of slump ending and acquisitions for cash.

Long-dated gilts held on to their overnight levels until the Bank of England's announcement and then quickly put on £1.75 as the demand built up. The industrial news then clipped three-quarters from the best levels, leaving most stocks with net rises of about one point.

"Shorts" opened one-eighth better, added seven-eighths in mid-session and ended about five-eighths ahead.

The eagerly-awaited figures from Shell proved to be something of a disappointment and the shares slipped 2p to 516p after 520p. With the proposed Alaskan cash casting a shadow over the pick, BP eased 2p to 880p, while of the smaller issues, Tricentrol was the weakest, losing 4p to 134p.

Among the "blue chips", one-time gains of between 6p and 8p were severely reduced by the close. Among those to hold onto their better levels were Dunlop 4p to 99p, Unilever 6p to 45p and Glaxo 3p to 46p.

Though some were well below the best, stores and consumer shares had a strong session in the continuing hope that the

Budget will see some tax concessions being made.

Among stores, British Home Stores rose 7p to 180p, and Marks & Spencer lost ground to end a penny firmer at 108p. Consumers had Decca "A" 5p better at 280p and Thorn "A" up by 4p to 260p.

Encouraging reports from the industry and continued speculative interest kept the drinks sector in the spotlight with gains of 12p to 204p from Arthur Bell (21p so far this week), 3p to 99p from Bass Charrington, 3p to 139p from Guinness and 3p to 130p from Distillers.

In engineers, Vickers saw some interest and gained 7p to 164p while Hawker Siddeley were 8p to the good at 534p. Random features saw Comet Radio jump 7p to 75p, Royal

Worcester gain 5p to 117p and Derek Crouch 5p to 65p.

Though unaffected by the rate cuts the clearing banks were strong, notably Barclays where the rise was 10p to 250p. The one go against the trend was National Westminster, 3p off at 235p.

European Ferries was one of the few to hold on to its level. Persistent buying had the shares 6p better at 65p. Optimistic traffic reports from the hard-won Felixstowe, where an obvious spur, but some are convinced that a state is growing.

The interest rate reduction gave an immediate boost to property shares. Additionally helped by the approach for Canadian interests, M&P jumped 6p to 80p and shares were other good gains.

But industry shares also stand to benefit from the money and here Marchival 4p to 165p, Costain 4p to 160p, housebuilder Barrat Developments 3p to 79p held on to their best levels. But allegations of a price ring lowered Redpath by 5p to 88p.

Tea shares were again in demand and this time additionally helped by the Bangladesh decision to relax dividends for overseas companies. Strength was to be found in Longhams up another 15p to 165p, Surnah Valley 5p to 40p.

According to Exchange Telegraph, active stocks yesterday were ICI, Gus "A", Marks & Spencer, Shell, BAT Dfd, Barclays, GEC, Lucas, Thorn "A", Grand Metropolitan, Dunlop, British Home Stores, Boots, He Beers, Charterhall, Tate & Lyle and Reckitt & Colman.

Latest dividends

Company (and par value)	Ord div	Year ago	Pay date	Year's total	Prev year's
Anglo American (50c) Fin	260p	210p	21/4	410p	385p
Anglo Siam (50c) Fin	0.52	0.74	21/4	0.82	0.74
Bata (25p) Sec Int	3.49	3.18	4/4	6.02	5.48
C. H. Downing (50p) Int	4.5	4.0	22/4	—	9.15
P. S. Geduld Mns (50c) Int	90p	120p	13/5	—	200p
Glaxo (50c) Int	0.75	0.75	1/4	—	1.75
Glaxo Sec (25p) Int	4.4	1.26	13/5	2.66	2.41
Harris & Sheldon (25p) Fin	1.39	4.3	4/4	—	7.7
J. Jarvis (25p) Int	2.5	1.55	15/4	—	5.84
Prudential (50c) Int	70p	105p	13/5	—	170p
Prudential Sec (50c) Int	10p	40p	13/5	—	45p
Royal Dutch (200p) Fin	5.5p	5.5p	—	10p	8.75p
Shell (25p) Int	1.07	0.42	29/4	—	0.79
W. N. Sharpe (25p) Fin	1.7	1.55	29/4	2.99	2.72
"Shell" Trans (25p) Fin	6.77	6.77	—	14.06	12.78
Silkolene Lab (10p) Sec Int	1.4	1.27	—	1.96	1.78
Standard Telephones (20p) Fin	2.6	2.39	—	4.02	3.89
Transport Dev (25p) Fin	1.85	1.74*	13/5	2.85	2.59*
Wellcom Gold (50c) Int	7.5p	12.5p	13/5	—	15p
WWE Trust (25p) Int	0.6	0.55	1/4	—	1.23
African Lakes (11p) Fin	4.4	2.0	—	4.4	2.0
Newbury Group (11p) Fin	NIL	0.21	27/5	—	0.46
Hunt & Moscrop (50p) Int	0.23	3.5	6	—	3.23
Inv of Gossamer (50p) Fin	3.75p	3.5	—	—	3.23
Western Hides (50c) Int	140p	185p	13/5	—	185p

Godfrey Davis in Hertz deal

Godfrey Davis, the car-hire and Ford dealing company, is buying the British truck rental and leasing operations of the Hertz Corporation, part of RCA Corporation of America.

Agreement in principle has been reached but the final price will not be fixed until early next month.

Hertz runs more than 500 commercial vehicles in its leasing here and more than 200 vehicles for daily rentals. The US-controlled group has sold several associated interests in recent years.

Christmas tonic brings sparkle to W N Sharpe

By Ashley Druker
Earnings a share were 15.5p against 15p, and the dividend rises from 4.3p gross to 4.6p.

Pre-tax profits for 1976 included gross income from investments up from £212,000 to £329,000. An accounting change brought an increase of £234,000 in valuation of stock and "parking" shares.

For 1976 pre-tax profits climbed 16 per cent to £2.6m. Turnover went up from £6.2m to £6.76m. Profits were steady at half-time at £799,000, and the board then thought real growth would be hard to win.

For this year order books are "much fuller" than at the same time in 1976.

Kode comfort in bid enigma

Kode International, the computer peripherals and specialist engineering group whose shares soared, in recent months, from a year's "low" of 27p to 71p on hopes, now fulfilled of an (anonymous) bid approach, more than doubled pre-tax profits last year, from £284,000 to £603,000.

Kode recommends the maximum rise in dividend, taking it to 2.25p gross a share. Even so it is covered 8.4 times 1 earnings.

The group reports buoyant demand but as for a bid, the board "is not in a position to forecast the outcome".

International Standard Electric Corporation

Notice of Redemption

9% Sinking Fund Debentures Due 1985

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the provisions of the Indenture dated as of April 1, 1970 between International Standard Electric Corporation and The Chase Manhattan Bank (National Association), as Trustee, \$5,000,000 in aggregate principal amount of the above-captioned Debentures will be redeemed on April 1, 1977 at the redemption price of 100% of the principal amount thereof, together with accrued interest to April 1, 1977.

The numbers of the Debentures to be redeemed are as follows:

1	41	1448	2748	4044	5379	6823	8277	9995	10829	12220	13377	14570	15723	16888	17744	18756	19933	21128	22226	23589	24745	26283	27359	28333
2	12	1458	2767	4060	5368	6837	8295	9999	10833	12225	13388	14583	15736	16720	17720	18767	19850	21127	22342	23777	24788	26289	27361	28337
3	14	1461	2770	4079	5388	6847	8305	10009	10843	12235	13400	14595	15748	16732	17732	18779	19862	21139	22354	23789	24790	26291	27363	28340
4	16	1464	2773	4082	5391	6850	8308	10012	10846	12238	13403	14598	15751	16735	17735	18782	19865	21142	22357	23792	24793	26294	27365	28343
5	18	1467	2776	4085	5394	6853	8311	10015	10849	12241	13406	14601	15754	16738	17738	18785	19868	21145	22360	23795	24796	26297	27368	28346
6	20	1470	2779	4088	5397	6856	8314	10018	10852	12244	13409	14604	15757	16740	17740	18787	19870	21148	22363	23798	24799	26298	27369	28349
7	22	1473	2782	4091	5400	6859	8317	10021	10855	12247	13412	14607	15760	16743	17743	18790	19873	21151	22366	23801	24802	26301	27370	28352
8	24	1476	2785	4094	5403	6862	8320	10024	10858	12250	13415	14610	15763	16746	17746	18793	19876	21154	22369	23804	24805	26302	27371	28355
9	26	1479	2788	4097	5406	6865	8323	10027	10861	12253	13418	14613	15766	16749	17749	18796	19879	21157	22372	23807	24808	26303	27372	28358
10	28	1482	2791	4100	5409	6868	8326	10030	10864	12256	13421	14616	15769	16752	17752	18800	19882	21160	22375	23810	24811	26304	27373	28361
11	30	1485	2794	4103	5412	6871	8329	10033	10867	12259	13424	14619	15772	16755	17755	18803	19885	21163	22378	23813	24814	26305	27374	28364
12	32	1488	2797	4106	5415	6874	8332	10036	10870	12262	13427	14622	15775	16758	17758	18806	19888	21166	22381	23816	24817	26306	27375	28367
13	34	1491	2800	4109	5418	6877	8335	10039	10873	12265	13430	14625	15778	16761	17761	18809	19891	21169	22384	23819	24820	26307	27376	28370
14	36	1494	2803	4112	5421	6880	8338	10042	10876	12268	13433	14628	15781	16764	17764	18812	19894	21172	22387	23822	24821	26308	27377	28373
15	38	1497	2806	4115	5424	6883	8341	10045	10879	12271	13436	14631	15784	16767	17767	18815	19897	21175	22390	23825	24822	26309	27378	28376
16	40	1500	2809	4118	5427	6886	8344	10048	10882	12274	13439	14634	15787	16770	17770	18818	19900	21178	22393	23828	24823	26310	27379	28379
17	42	1503	2812	4121	5430	6889	8347	10051	10885	12277	13442	14637	15790	16773	17773	18821	19903	21181	22396	23831	24824	26311	27380	28382
18	44	1506	2815	4124	5433	6892	8350	10054	10888	12280	13445	14640	15793	16776	17776	18824	19906	21184	22399	23834	24825	26312	27381	28385
19	46	1509	2818	4127	5436	6895	8353	10057	10891	12283	13448	14643	15796	16779	17779	18827	19909	21187	22402	23837	24826	26313	27382	28388
20	48	1512	2821	4130	5439	6898	8356	10060	10894	12286	13451	14646	15799	16782	17782	18830	19912	21190	22405	23840	24827	26314	27383	28391
21	50	1515	2824	4133	5442	6901	8359	10063	10897	12289	13454	14649	15802	16785	17785	18833	19915	21193	22408	23843	24828	26315	27384	28394
22	52	1518	2827	4136	5445	6904	8362	10066	10900	12292	13457	14652	15805	16788	17788	18836	19918	21196	22411	23846	24829	26316	27385	28397
23	54	1521	2830	4139	5448	6907	8365	10069	10903	12295	13460	14655	15808	16791	17791	18839	19921	21199	22414	23849	24830	26317	27386	28400
24	56	1524	2833	4142	5451	6910	8368	10072	10906	12298	13463	14658	15811	16794	17794	18842	19924	21202	22417	23852	24831	26318	27387	28403
25	58	1527	2836	4145	5454	6913	8371	10075	10909	12301	13466	14661	15814	16797	17797	18845	19927	21205	22420	23855	24832	26319	27388	28406
26	60	1530	2839	4148	5457	6916	8374	10078	10912	12304	13469	14664	15817	16800	17797	18848	19930	21208	22423	23858	24833	26320	27389	28409
27	62	1533	2842	4151	5460	6919	8377	10081	10915	12307	13472	14667	15820	16803	17800	18851	19933	21211	22426	23861	24834	26321	27390	28412
28	64	1536	2845	4154	5463	6922	8380	10084	10918	12310	13475	14670	15823	16806	17803	18854	19936	21214	22429	23864	24835	26322	27391	28415
29	66	1539	2848	4157	5466	6925	8383	10087	10921	12313	13478	14673	15826	16809	17806	18857	19939	21217	22432	23867	24836	26323	27392	28418
30	68	1542	2851	4160	5469	6928	8386	10090	10924	12316	13481	14676	15829	16812	17809	18860	19942	21220	22435	23870	24837	26324	27393	28421
31	70	1545	2854	4163	5472	6931	8389	10093	10927	12319	13484	14679	15832	16815	17812	18863	19945	21223	22438	23873	24838	26325	27394	28424
32	72	1548	2857	4166	5475	6934	8392	10096	10930	12322	13487	14682	15835	16818	17815	18866	19948	21226	22441	23876	24839	26326	27395	28427
33	74	1551	2860	4169	5478	6937	8395	10099	10933	12325	13490	14685	15838	16821	17818	18869	19951	21229	22444	23879	24840	26327	27396	28430
34	76	1554	2863	4172	5482	6941	8399	10103	10937	12329	13494	14689	15842	16825	17822	18873	19955	21233	22448	23883	24844	26331	27397	28434
35	78	1557	2866	4175	5485	6944	8402	10106	10940	12332	13497	14692	15845	16828	17825	18876	19958	21236	22451	23886	24847	26334	27398	28437
36	80	1560	2869	4178	5488	6947	8405	10109	10943	12335	13500	14695	15848	16831	17828	18879	19961	21239	22454	23889	24850	26337	27399	28440
37	82	1563	2872	4182	5492	6951	8409	10113	10947	12339	13504	14699	15852	16835	17832	18883	19965	21243	22458	23893	24854	26340	27400	28444
38	84	1566	2875	4185	5495	6954	8412	10116	10950	12342	13507	14702	15855	16838	17835	18886	19968	21246	22461	23896	24857	26343	27401	28447
39	86	1569	2878	4188	5498	6957	8415	10119	10953	12345	13510	14705	15858	16841	17838	18889	19971	21249	22464	23899	24860	26346	27402	28450
40	88	1572	2881	4192	5502	6961	8419	10123	10957	12349	13514	14709	15862	16845	17842	18893	19975	21253	22468	23903	24864	26349	27403	28454
41	90	1575	2884	4195	5505	6964	8422	10126	10960	12352	13517	14712	15865	16848	17845	18896	19978	21256	22471	23906	24867	26352	27404	28457
42	92	1578	2887	4198	5508	6967	8425	10129	10963	12355	13520	14715	15868	16851	17848	18899	19981	21259	22474	23909	24870	26355	27405	28460
43	94	1581	2890	4202	5512	6971	8429	10133	10967	12359	13524	14719	15872	16855	17852	18903	19985	21263	22478	23913	24874	26358	27406	28464
44	96	1584	2893	4205	5515	6974	8432	10136	10970	12362	13527	14722	15875	16858	17855	18906	19988	21266	22481	23916	24877	26361	27407	28467
45	98	1587	2896	4208	5518	6977	8435	10139	10973	12365	13530	14725	15878	16861	17858	18909	19991	21269	22484	23919	24880	26364	27408	28470
46	100	1590	2899	4212	5522	6981	8439	10143	10977	12369	13534	14729	15882	16865	17862	18913	19995	21273	22488	23923	24884	26367	27409	28474
47	102	1593	2902	4215	5525	6984	8442	10146	10980	12372	13537	14732	15885	16868	17865	18916	19998	21276	22491	23926	24887	26370	27410	28477
48	104	1596	2905	4218	5528	6987	8445	10149	10983	12375	13540	14735	15888	16871	17868	18919	20001	21279	22494	23929	24890	26373	27411	28480
49	106	1599	2908	4222	5532	6991	8449	10153	10987	12379	13544	14739	15892	16875	17872	18923	20005	21283	22498	23933	24894	26376	27412	28484
50	108	1602	2911	4225	5535	6994	8452	10156	10990	12382	13547	14742	15895	16878	17875	18926	20008	21286	22501	23936	24897	26379	27413	28487
51	110	1605	2914	4228	5538	6997	8455	10159	10993	12385	13550	14745	15898	16881	17878	18929	20011	21289	22504	23939	24900	26382	27414	28490
52	112	1608	2917	4232																				

FINANCIAL NEWS AND MARKET REPORTS

gains Blagden & Noakes' upsurge
s coming off the boil

Ray Maughan

Blagden & Noakes' upsurge in profits is coming off the boil. The company's strong demand for steel and plastics surprised analysts in the 53 weeks to January 2 last. After a six per cent increase at the end of 1976, pre-tax profits were up by more than 56 per cent to £3.78m.

The initial market reaction was strong. At one point the shares were up to 152p; but the close they were down 1p to 146p.

Although the "kink" predicted by a £3.13m pre-tax profit for 1974 has been ironed out, dealings were later subdued by a warning from Mr. J. K. Noakes, chairman, that this year has opened weaker.

"Since the start of 1977", he says, "there has been some small falling-off in demand." The decline is estimated at around 5 per cent, which Blagden puts down to seasonal factors and a minor adjustment of stocks.

Business in oil, paints and chemicals has been buoyant for 12 months—particularly in the group's indirect exports. Now the outlook is less clear, and Mr. Noakes commits himself to no more than "at least comparable results this year".

Market disappointment also arose from the failure to raise the 4.4 times-covered dividend of 9.12p per share gross by more than the maximum, where the yield is still only 6.3 per cent.

Plans to beat dividend curbs have been a matter of speculation for some time. Gearing is almost non-existent, and Blagden is well placed to launch a cash-and-paper offer for a suitable competitor.

Wall Street

The interest rate rise in New York, March 10.—Stocks closed mostly higher on the New York Stock Exchange. The Dow Jones Industrial Average was up 1.33 points to 1,173.73. Advancing issues outnumbered declines by about 825 to 560.

Volume totalled 18,620,000 shares, compared with 19,680,000 on Wednesday.

Spot March cocoa futures 27 cents.

New York, March 10.—Cocoa, the most volatile of commodities, closed 27 cents in March at 141.75. The March contract, which was the most active, was up 1/4 cent to 141.75. The July contract was up 1/4 cent to 142.50. The September contract was up 1/4 cent to 143.50. The December contract was up 1/4 cent to 144.50. The March contract was the most active, with 1,200 contracts traded.

Gold futures closed at 180.00. The March contract was up 1/4 cent to 180.00. The July contract was up 1/4 cent to 180.50. The September contract was up 1/4 cent to 181.00. The December contract was up 1/4 cent to 181.50. The March contract was the most active, with 1,200 contracts traded.

Oil futures closed at 10.00. The March contract was up 1/4 cent to 10.00. The July contract was up 1/4 cent to 10.05. The September contract was up 1/4 cent to 10.10. The December contract was up 1/4 cent to 10.15. The March contract was the most active, with 1,200 contracts traded.

Grain futures closed at 1.00. The March contract was up 1/4 cent to 1.00. The July contract was up 1/4 cent to 1.05. The September contract was up 1/4 cent to 1.10. The December contract was up 1/4 cent to 1.15. The March contract was the most active, with 1,200 contracts traded.

Metals futures closed at 1.00. The March contract was up 1/4 cent to 1.00. The July contract was up 1/4 cent to 1.05. The September contract was up 1/4 cent to 1.10. The December contract was up 1/4 cent to 1.15. The March contract was the most active, with 1,200 contracts traded.

Foreign exchange.—Sterling, spot, 1.700 (1.710); 3 months, 1.700 (1.710); 6 months, 1.700 (1.710); 12 months, 1.700 (1.710). Canadian dollar, 94.66 (94.66). The Dow Jones averages.—Industrial, 1,173.73 (1,173.73); transportation, 1,173.73 (1,173.73); financial, 1,173.73 (1,173.73).

Stocks power Strong & Fisher

Fashion leather manufacturer Strong & Fisher sent pre-tax profits soaring by 63 per cent to £1.05m in the six months to November 30 on a leap in sales of as much as 73 per cent.

The interim dividend goes up from 2.04p gross to 2.615p gross. Earnings a share were 11p, against 7.6p and 5.5p for the whole of the year before.

Leather turnover rose from £5.08m to £6.9m, thanks to higher prices and volume.

Other aspects of the business grew from £1.86m to £4.82m, reflecting new subsidiary companies and substantial rises in hides, skins and wools.

Galliford Brindley

To follow record pre-tax profits for the year to June 30, Galliford Brindley now reports a 24 per cent rise to £1.17m for the six months to December 31. This is the first time that this building, engineering and plant hire group has passed the £1m mark at half time. Turnover rose from £16m to £16.8m.

But the directors are holding the dividend at 1.15p gross even though earnings a share were 4.68p against 4.26p.

V & G 25p in April

Messrs Paul Shewell, of Coopers and Lybrand, and Kenneth Cork (W. H. Cork, Gully), joint liquidators of companies in the Vehicle and General group, will be dispatching over 400,000 dividend cheques in April to the admitted creditors. The first interim divi-

dend will be 25p in the pound. The liquidators think further payments are possible in due course; and they expect distributions amounting to "about 50p" in the pound will eventually be made to all creditors.

Francis placing to raise £590,000

As hinted by Mr D. M. Saunders, chairman, earlier this week with the 1976 figures, Francis Industries is to reduce gearing through a placing. It will be 1.39m ordinary shares at 36p each, a discount of 6p and raise about £590,000. A special interim dividend of 0.5p net will be paid on the enlarged capital.

The board also forecasts dividends for this year to December 31 of 3.37p net, including the special payment. This contrasts with 2.53p net a share for 1976. The Treasury agrees.

Naught from Needlers

With reorganization under way, Needlers, the chocolates and sweets group, hopes to make money in the second half of 1977 and finish the year breaking even. A reasonable profit is looked for in 1978.

But the year to January 1 saw a loss of £251,000 against

a pre-tax profit of £175,000. Turnover was £5.7m against £5.1m. Naturally, there is no dividend, against 1.69p gross.

The start of 1977 saw bank borrowings reach a record £1.18m but they should be less than half this when it ends.

Cement-Roadstone in 35 pc gain

Cement-Roadstone Holdings, Ireland's biggest industrial group, bear earlier cautious 1976 forecasts with a 34.7 per cent increase in pre-tax profits to £11.66m.

The group, with construction, agricultural products and chemical divisions in Ireland, Britain and Holland, benefited from lower interest costs after last year's £8.15m rights issue; exchange gains on profits brought back from the Netherlands; and the buoyancy of agriculture in Ireland.

Trusts' merger timing

Shareholders in two big investment trusts in the Electra House Group, Cable Trust and Globe Investment Trust, should hear within the next month firm news about the merger proposal, says Mr Alastair Roger, who heads both boards.

BRITISH AMERICAN AND GENERAL TRUST LIMITED

Extracts from the Statement by the Chairman, Mr W. H. Conroy and summary of the results for the year ended 31st December, 1976.

- Fully diluted net earnings for 1976 show an increase of almost 16% over the previous year. The total ordinary dividend for the year is 1.40p per unit compared with 1.25p per unit paid for 1975.
- At the end of 1976 net asset value was 43p per share compared with 40p per share, representing a rise of 6.2%. This compares with a fall of 3.9% in the F.T. Actuaries All Share Index.
- The overseas content of the Trust's portfolio was 36.3% at the year-end compared with 34.8% a year earlier. This was due to the relatively better performance of overseas markets and the effect of the huge fall in sterling.
- It is the philosophy of this Trust to provide its shareholders with a steadily rising income coupled with a long term growth in asset values. The investment trust movement as a whole has achieved a very good performance of total return over a long period of time and as such offers an attractive medium for those wishing to invest their savings responsibly with the benefit of professional management.

	1976	1975
REVENUE AVAILABLE FOR ORDINARY STOCK (Net) (£'000,000)	£718,880	£604,877
(Increased during 1976 by the conversion of loan stock)		
EARNED FOR ORDINARY STOCK (Net)	1.48p	1.25p
TOTAL ASSETS	£22,702,890	£21,373,000
Attributable to Ordinary Stock	£21,027,000	£18,873,000
Net asset value per Unit of 25p	43p	40p

Managers—Kleinwort, Benson Limited
Annual General Meeting—20 Fenchurch Street, London, E.C.3.
Friday, 1st April, 1977 at 11.30 a.m.

The names

Dorma · Dhobi · Aertex
Louis Philippe · Ewvarest · Clydella
Allen Solly · Rocola · Peter England

behind the name

Quest · Viyella House · Yorkers
Van Heusen · Old Bleach · Viyella
Driway · London Pride · Quelrayn

Carrington Viyella

Extracts from the Statement by the Chairman and the Directors' Report for the year ended 31 December 1976:

"I believe that the results of the Company in what has been a most difficult year augur well for the future... any improvement in the general trading climate at home or abroad will enable us to look forward to increased profitability."

Mr. L. Regan, Chairman

Outlook

The order book at the end of 1976 shows approximately a 29% increase from the end of 1975 and the export performance is expected to improve again in 1977. Certain loss making activities have been eliminated and continuing benefits will be achieved from the rationalisation of the business.

The Annual General Meeting will be held at The Dorchester, Park Lane, London W.1., on Thursday, 31 March 1977 at twelve noon.

Copies of the Annual Report and Accounts can be obtained upon request to the Secretary, 24 Great Pulteney Street, London W1R 3DB.

RESULTS IN BRIEF	1976	1975
Sales	£'000	£'000
Operating profit	278,157	232,776
Profit before tax	19,563	10,951
Profit attributable to		
Ordinary Shareholders	5,258	2,032
Ordinary Dividends	2,635	2,395
Earnings per Ordinary Share	3.76p	1.84p

Carrington Viyella Ltd



MIDLAND INDUSTRIES

Record Results Again

- * Pretax profits up 46 pc to £1,345,000
- * Turnover up 21 pc to £15 million
- * Basic earnings 5.78p per share (1975: 3.78p)
- * Diluted earnings 4.99p per share (1975: 3.15p)

In the current year, progress is being made in all areas. We have consolidated the Heating and Process Control and the Plastics Machinery Divisions into a new Company—BVM1—and a new factory. We are continuing our expansion policy in MIL, the Agricultural Equipment Company, but we still have a long way to go. Bettles, the Steel Flooring Manufacturer, continues to diversify profitability.

The RMI Division continues to make a substantial contribution to Group profitability. Unfortunately, due to loss of traditional work, the Scottish Foundry could no longer continue to operate on the diminished demand and we have been left with no alternative but to close it.

E. C. Marsland, Chairman.

Heath Town Works, Wolverhampton, WV10 0QD

Briefly

HUNT & MOSCROP
Rights issue of 2.6m shares on 1:6 basis at 8p. Turnover for half-year rose from £5.26m to £5.9m and pre-tax profits from £254,000 to £385,000. Dividend, 0.366p gross (0.333p).

R. P. MARTIN
Turnover for half-year, £1.39m (£1.37m); pre-tax profit, £282,000 (£239,000). Gross dividend, 3.85p (3.84p).

AFRICAN LAKES CORP
Pre-tax profits for year to July 31, 1976, up from £661,000 to £1m. Gross payment, 6.77p (6.15p).

S CONSTRUCTIONS BID OFF
Talks on Southern Constructors (Holdings) taking over Elmer Group have ended.

JOSEPH SHAKESPEARE
Turnover for 1976, £5.5m (£5.48m); pre-tax profit, £769,000 (£703,000). Gross payment, 2.65p (1.22p).

PREMIER-BALL & COLLINS
Purchase of Ball and Collins (Oil and Gas) by Premier Coal Oilfields will now depend on Premier's shareholders' approval in general meeting.

DAWNAY DAY-FLORENT
Directors of Florent, who are both directors of Dawnay Day, and their advisers, make no recommendation on offer. Shareholders should seek professional advice.

Scottish United Investors

Benefits from Dollar Holdings

The investment portfolio retains a consistent pattern—Increase in Far East reflects the year and strength of the Tokyo market despite the withdrawal of £1m for UK reinvestment during the year.

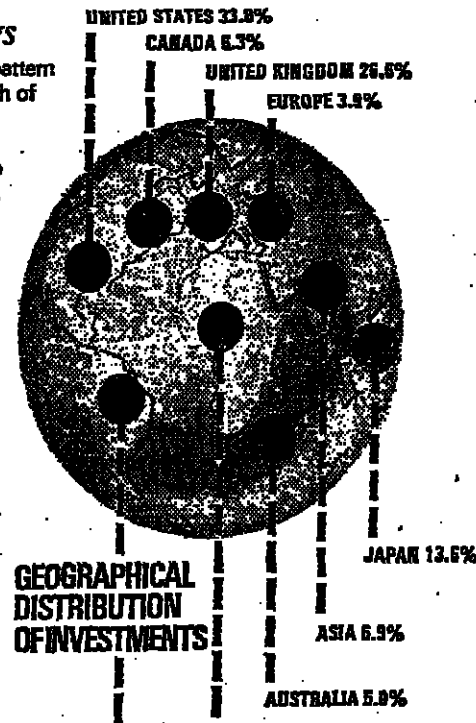
Position in USA benefited from the favourable sterling conversion of dollar investments and from useful increases in earnings and dividends from holdings of long standing.

The UK portfolio reflects the comparatively strong performance of the oil sector, notably the holdings in London and Scottish Marine Oil and Scottish Canadian Oil and Transportation.

Having regard to the company's very strong asset position the Board recommends an increased total ordinary dividend of 1.70p at a cost of £1,205,949. Robert C. Smith, Chairman

Summary of the Year	1976	1975
Total assets	£87,852,035	£82,516,747
Net assets	77,234,485	66,946,663
Net asset value	108p	80p
Gross revenue	3,580,729	3,077,123
Net revenue	1,155,579	1,133,868
Dividend	1.70p	1.55p

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EQUITIES 98.3% FIXED INTEREST 1.7%

Bank Base Rates

Barclays Bank	11 1/2%
Consolidated Credits	11 1/2%
First London Secs	11 1/2%
C. Hoare & Co.	11 1/2%
Lloyds Bank	11 1/2%
Midland Bank	11 1/2%
Nat Westminster	11 1/2%
Rossminster Acc's	11 1/2%
Shenley Trust	11 1/2%
Williams & Glyn's	11 1/2%

The Standard Life Assurance Company

THE ONE HUNDRED AND FIFTY FIRST ANNUAL GENERAL MEETING of the Company will be held in the Head Office, 3 GEORGE STREET, EDINBURGH on TUESDAY, 22nd MARCH, 1977 at 2.30 p.m.

By Order of the Board of Directors
D. W. A. DONALD
General Manager & Actuary
Edinburgh.
8th March, 1977.

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117	100	Airsprung 181 ¹ CULS	17	18.5	15.8		
32	25	Armature & Rhodes	28	3.0	10.7		
114	96	Deborah Ord	97	8.2			
122	104	Deborah 171 ¹ CULS	108	16.2			
81	55	Henry Spikes	49	2.2	4.5		
81	55	James Burrough	80	-1.0	7.5	52.7	
232	188	Robert Jenkins	219	25.0	11.4		4.9
24	8	Twink Ord	35				
63	51	Twink 12 ¹ ULS	60	12.0	20.0		
63	51	Unilock Holdings	55	-6.1	11.1	6.9	
71	65	Walter Alexander	71xd	+1	5.8	8.2	8.0

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THE TIMES SHARE INDICES

The Times Share Indices for 1932-37 (Base Date June 8, 1934 original base Date June 8, 1929) :-

	Index Date	Yld. Div.	Earn- ings	Share No.
	Latest	1936	1935	Previous
The Times Industrial Share Index	178.49	6.78	31.34	120.25
Largest 100	172.97	6.48	30.20	117.97
Smaller 500	182.49	7.41	33.53	121.54
Capital Goods	192.08	8.60	33.43	124.69
Consumer Goods	190.81	7.24	30.71	119.87
State Shares	130.23	7.25	2.38	120.16
Largest financial shares	128.50	6.22	—	120.73
Largest financial and industrial shares	174.86	6.43	—	117.64
Commodity shares	222.00	8.22	11.36	206.29
Gold Mining shares	194.00	9.05	18.35	272.00
Industrial adventure stocks	85.25	7.50*	—	85.88
Industrial preference stocks	55.49	13.65*	—	55.28
3½% War Loan	25.00	12.61*	—	25.00

* A record of The Times Industrial Share Index is given below:-

	High	Low
All-Index	198.47 (25.06.37)	69.18 (12.12.70)
1977	170.49 (10.05.77)	351.29 (26.01.77)
1976	171.68 (26.08.76)	135.83 (27.10.76)
1975	155.82 (21.05.75)	145.27 (08.05.75)
1974	136.15 (20.07.74)	186.18 (12.12.74)
1973	189.20 (12.01.73)	126.69 (11.13.73)
1972	156.47 (21.05.72)	171.49 (19.01.72)

* Fiat Interest Yield.

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Broadcasting

That most English of actors, the late William Mervyn, appears in his final role as a country squire in Raffles (ITV 9.0), a year's filming of the Ythan estuary in Scotland yields a fascinating wildlife film for Horizon (BBC2 9.25), and The Money Programme (BBC2 8.35) travels to Lancashire to check on the textile industry. There is more science fiction hokum in The Fantastic Journey (BBC1 7.10), a new series of film adventures from America.—T.S.

BBC 1

6.50 am, Open University: Baroque Stringed Instruments. 7.05, French Revolutionary Terror. 7.30, Fossil Vertebrate Drama. 7.45, 11.00, You and Me. 12.15, News. 1.00, Pebble Mill. 1.45-2.00, Trumpet. 3.30, Art Glazer. 3.55, Play School. 4.20, Roobarb. 4.25, Jackanory. 4.40, Leggy Lion. 4.55, Crackajack. 5.35, Paddington. 5.55, Nationwide. 7.00, Tom and Jerry Show. 7.10, The Fantastic Journey, with Jared. 7.15, The Road to Nowhere. 8.00, Are You Being Served? 8.30, Porridge. 9.00, News. 9.25, Harry O. 10.15, Tootles. 10.45, Max Boyce in Concert. 11.25, Film: All the Fine Young Cannibals, with Natalie Wood, Robert Wagner, George Hamilton, Susan Kerner, Pearl Bailey. 1.15, Weather.

Regional programmes (BBC 1): 12.00, News. 1.00, Pebble Mill. 1.45-2.00, Trumpet. 3.30, Art Glazer. 3.55, Play School. 4.20, Roobarb. 4.25, Jackanory. 4.40, Leggy Lion. 4.55, Crackajack. 5.35, Paddington. 5.55, Nationwide. 7.00, Tom and Jerry Show. 7.10, The Fantastic Journey, with Jared. 7.15, The Road to Nowhere. 8.00, Are You Being Served? 8.30, Porridge. 9.00, News. 9.25, Harry O. 10.15, Tootles. 10.45, Max Boyce in Concert. 11.25, Film: All the Fine Young Cannibals, with Natalie Wood, Robert Wagner, George Hamilton, Susan Kerner, Pearl Bailey. 1.15, Weather.

BBC 2

6.40 am, Open University: Ontario-Land - Use. 7.05, Curriculum Design and Development. 7.30-7.55, Emily. 7.55, 11.00, You and Me. 12.15, News. 1.00, Pebble Mill. 1.45-2.00, Trumpet. 3.30, Art Glazer. 3.55, Play School. 4.20, Roobarb. 4.25, Jackanory. 4.40, Leggy Lion. 4.55, Crackajack. 5.35, Paddington. 5.55, Nationwide. 7.00, Tom and Jerry Show. 7.10, The Fantastic Journey, with Jared. 7.15, The Road to Nowhere. 8.00, Are You Being Served? 8.30, Porridge. 9.00, News. 9.25, Harry O. 10.15, Tootles. 10.45, Max Boyce in Concert. 11.25, Film: All the Fine Young Cannibals, with Natalie Wood, Robert Wagner, George Hamilton, Susan Kerner, Pearl Bailey. 1.15, Weather.

Thames

12.00, Kathy's Quiz. 12.30 pm, Mister Trumble. 1.00, News. 1.30, Today's Post. 1.45, About Britain. 2.00, Good Afternoon. 2.25, Film: The Girl Most Likely To... with Stockard Channing. 3.30, The Great Tree. 4.15, Dominic. 4.45, Margie. 5.15, University Challenge. 5.45, News. 6.00, Today. 6.35, Crossroads. (1) Repeat.

ATV

12.00 pm, Thames. 1.20, ATV News. 1.30, Thames. 2.25, Film: Two-way Stretch, with Peter Sellers, Wilfred Bride, and John Gielgud. 3.30, News. 4.15, Today's Post. 4.45, Margie. 5.15, University Challenge. 5.45, News. 6.00, Today. 6.35, Crossroads. (1) Repeat.

ITV

12.00 pm, Thames. 1.20, ATV News. 1.30, Thames. 2.25, Film:

